

PARTNERSHIP



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by

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Introduction

Partnerships are formed on a daily basis around the world because people have recognized the need for one another. Unfortunately many of those partnerships from marriages to business partnerships end up in bitter court battles.

In the church there are partnerships to be made by believers that go unaware or have been rejected for various reasons. God has designed the body of Christ, the church, to partner with one another. The majority of the global church though still remains without any partnership connections whatsoever.

*And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said. The **kingdom of heaven is like** unto a certain king, which made **a marriage for his son**. And sent forth his servants to **call them that were***

bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Matthew 22:1-3

When someone throws a party, he invites guests to his home to participate in a predetermined function. If an invited guest chooses not to attend, then he misses out on all that went on at the party. But those invited guests who do go to the party join in by participating with what the host has planned. By *participating* in the *party* they become *partyers* with the host, or *partners*.

God is throwing a Holy Ghost party in these last days, and has invited all of His children to attend and to participate in what He has predetermined. Only those participating, or partying, by partnering God's way will enjoy the fullness of this last day outpouring.

In this study we will examine the Scriptures to find out what true partnership is and what its purpose is. We will learn the benefit of partnership

for both parties involved. So open your mind and heart as we open God's party invitation and RSVP.

The Partnership Principle

Partnerships have been around for thousands of years. They are no new thing, yet most Christians balk at the idea of partnerships within the church.

In the book of Luke we see a fishing business partnership between Simon Peter and two brothers named James and John. Jesus had just preached out of Simon Peter's ship and Peter's reward for partnering with Jesus was going to be the biggest catch of fish of his lifetime. This huge catch came at a time when Peter's fishing business was suffering loss.

Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon

answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy Word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. Luke 5:4

Simon Peter had partnered with Jesus unknowingly, yet the partnership still yielded the biggest financial harvest he and his partners had ever had!

This blessing principle in Biblical partnership is so important to understand. Jesus' financial blessing on

Simon Peter affected his partners James and John to the same degree. This catch of fish, which meant money to these fishermen, was so huge that Simon Peter's ship, and the two brother's ship, began to sink!

This financial partnership miracle so impacted these fishermen's lives that they immediately ended their fishing business partnerships, and partnered up with Jesus full-time.

*When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken. And so was also **James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon.** And Jesus said*

unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him. *Luke 5:8-11*

What a valuable revelation this story gives to the church about how God moves and blesses through partnerships. James and John didn't give Jesus their ship to preach from, but because of their partnership with Simon Peter they received the same amount of blessing as Peter did for his partnership with Jesus. A little play on the word partnership in this particular story would be partners in the ship.

This partnership truth is how Jesus started His ministry; and partnership has never ended despite its abuse, rejection, or the lack of knowledge concerning it. Jesus blesses those who partner with

Him in the preaching of the Word of God, and those who are partnered with that partner get the same reward.

Simon Peter through his partnership with Jesus would become one of the leaders of the early church. God always looks for obedient leaders who will partner with Him for His Master plan, and those who partner with that leader will all receive the same blessing.

If this spiritual-partnership truth was known and implemented in the body of Christ, there would be virtually no lack among us.

King David knew this partner truth to some degree. When he and the men who had their goods stolen and their families abducted, they chased the enemy down and recovered all.

And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor

*daughters, neither spoil, nor
any thing that they had taken
to them: David recovered all.*

I Samuel 30:19

Again, it's important to see that whatever happened to the leader, in this case having his home plundered, also happened to the partners. But the leader's recovery of what was stolen also came to the partners, and with super abundance left over.

David had two hundred other partners who had become so weary with the pursuit of the enemy that David assigned them to stand watch over all of the stuff while they finished the recovery pursuit. Upon returning with the recovered stolen goods and plunder, those who went with David wanted to keep all the blessing for themselves and not share it with the two hundred partners who stayed with the stuff. After

all, they were the ones who had actually gone and fought in the recovery battle.

*And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them. Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, **Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart. I Samuel 30:21-22***

David knew that true partnership didn't operate like that, and would not let his other two hundred partners be left out. David instructed that all of his partners, even those who had guarded the stuff because they were faint, would equally share in the partner blessing.

Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this

day. I Samuel 30:23-25

Every partner got the same part whether he actually went to the mission field to do the hands-on ministry, or if he stayed back and guarded the stuff. This partnership truth according to these Scriptures became an established statute and ordinance forever.

There are people in the body of Christ whom God sends to the mission field to take back what the devil has stolen. There are those also who will never go to the mission field, but their assignments are to guard the stuff at home. They all should be partnered together as one. This releases blessing on all those who do their parts correctly within these partnerships.

This partnership truth became so real to David that he wrote this in the book of Psalms:

The LORD taketh my part

*with them that help me:
therefore shall I see my desire
upon them that hate me.*

Psalms 118:7

David was saying that if people would partner with him to help him do what God had called him to do, God would then partner with them and help them get done what they needed to get done.

New Testament Partnership

Many believers who oppose the concept of partnership within the church claim that this is just Old Testament, that there is no Scriptural evidence in the New Testament supporting partnership.

We have already seen that the partner statute and ordinance was forever established by David. But those who oppose partnership say that it was a statute and an ordinance instituted by David, not God.

We also discovered that Jesus began His ministry with partnerships, but those who oppose this truth say that was before the church was born.

For the true Bible believer and doer of the Word, you know how foolish those opposing arguments are, but in the book of Philippians we find New Testament undeniable proof of

partnership.

The Apostle Paul, who wrote this letter to the saints at Philippi, was actually writing a partner letter to those who were financially supporting his missionary outreaches.

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons...For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:1, 5

The initial reading of this can appear as if Paul was referring to the kind of *fellowship* that believers enjoy over a meal or in a church gathering. Paul knew the importance of that kind of *fellowship*, but he wasn't talking about that.

The word *fellowship* used in this

passage of Scripture is from the Greek word *koinonia* (*koy-nohn-ee'-ah*) which means *partnership*. It comes from the Greek word *koinonos* (*koy-no-nos'*) which means *a partner, a sharer*. Many Bible versions translate *fellowship* properly as *partnership*. Here are three of those translations that fortify the real meaning of Paul's introduction in his partner letter to the Philippians.

*thankful for your **partnership**
in the gospel from the first day
until now.*

Philippians 1:5 RSV

*for your **partnership** in
furtherance of the Good News
from the first day until now;*

Philippians 1:5 WEB

*because of your **partnership**
in the gospel from the first day
until now,*

Philippians 1:5 NIV

Now that we have established this is a New Testament partnership letter, notice also that the Apostle Paul tells us that this partnership was an ongoing partnership.

*For your fellowship in the
gospel from the first day until
now; Philippians 1:5*

This was not a one-time financial offering that had been taken for Paul when he preached at the Philippian church. From the first day they met Paul the revelation of this partnership truth was clearly seen by them, and they immediately began partnering with him and continued to do so after he left.

Paul was so moved by their partnership faithfulness that he wrote to them this letter, and stated what they had coming to them because of their partnership with his ministry.

*Being confident of this very thing, that **He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6***

Paul told his partners that just as they had begun a good work to help him perform his ministry, they could be confident that God in return would perform in them what He had begun to do in their lives.

This is one of the benefits of helping someone through partnership who has a God-given vision to perform. Those supporting partners will receive the performance of their personal desires that God has made real to them.

But there was more that Paul wanted his partners to know. He told them that he carried them in his heart constantly. That means Paul's Philippian partners were being prayed for and spiritually

covered by him on a daily basis no matter what they were encountering in their personal lives.

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy...even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Philippians 1:4, 7

If that weren't enough, Paul went even further to say that all of his faithful partners were *partakers of his grace!*

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and

*confirmation of the gospel, ye
all are partakers of my grace.*

Philippians 1:7

That word translated *partakers* in the Greek is the word *sugkoinonos*, (*soong-koy-no-nos'*) which means *a co-participant, companion partner, partaker*. Notice that the Greek word *koinonos* (*koy-no-nos'* which means *a partner, a sharer*) is the root of this compound Greek word *sugkoinonos*.

What Paul was making real to his partners was that the *grace* that was on his life to do the things he did was now on their lives because of their partnership giving.

This is a powerful spiritual truth that is predominately absent from the church. No wonder the church of God is in the spiritual condition it is in! Partnership is not significantly being utilized.

The world recognizes the value of

partnerships as businesses merge. Social clubs, which are just financial partners, have members who enjoy a particular environment. Other worldly partnerships are functioning every day while the church operates generally without it.

Paul, as he closed his partner letter, continued to tell his partners all that they had coming to them for their faithfulness.

*Now ye **Philippians** know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. **Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.***

Philippians 4:15-17

Paul commended their faithful *partnership* through their financial *giving*, but he added *receiving* as well. Paul wanted them to know that God was going to bless their financial partnership *giving* by their *receiving fruit in their accounts*. Paul said to his partners, “You have been *giving*; and I want you to know that it's *not because I desire the gift*, but I know the *receiving* truth of partnership and your *accounts* will *abound!*”

Then Paul said something special that only pertained to his faithful partners in Philippi.

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

I hear Christians who aren't even tithers much less partners with anybody with whom they are supposed to be

partnered, quote this verse. It only applies to those believers who are faithful partners with those whom God has instructed them to partner.

Paul was telling them that his God would supply all of their needs supernaturally. This verse is not describing the quantity of what God would supply, although He supplies in huge quantities many times, but it describes the quality of His supply system.

*But my God shall supply all
your need according to his
riches in glory by Christ
Jesus. **Philippians 4:19***

Paul was telling his New Testament partners that his God would supply all their needs with the best that heaven had, and everyone should know that it doesn't get any better than that.

Let's stop and think for a moment.

When we all get to heaven do you think there will be any of Paul's Philippian partners who will say that what Paul had said in this verse didn't happen in their lives? Only if they had stopped their faithful partnership from continuing would that have happened, otherwise Paul's God supplied all of his partners needs supernaturally.

Paul's God is my God, and Paul's God is your God; therefore He will supernaturally supply all of our needs if we are faithfully continuing in the partnerships to which He has led us.

Two other places that Paul verified this partnership truth are found in the books of Second Corinthians and Philemon.

*Whether any do enquire of
Titus, he is my partner and
fellowhelper concerning you:
or our brethren be enquired of,*

*they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ. **II Corinthians 8:23***

*If thou **count me** therefore a **partner**, receive him as myself.*

Philemon 1:17

Both of these Scriptures were written to believers who obviously knew what Paul meant when he described Titus and then himself as partners. Paul was writing about the concept of partnership that had to have been taught in the early church, or the reader's of those letters would not have had a clue of what Paul was talking about when he used the word partner.

If the early church knew about partnership, then surely two thousand years later this end-time church should know about it and be flowing in it.

Where to Partner

Where to become partners is what we need to discover now that we know that partnership is actually a New Testament truth.

We have already seen the example of the Philippian believers who had partnered with Paul on the mission field. It's sad that missionaries have to come back to America to raise financial support for their next missions trip and instead of being able to attend conferences, soak in the Word, and get refreshed.

My wife and I believe in mission partnership, and have given to missions ever since the first year we were born again. I believe every believer has the spiritual obligation to give in some capacity to missions.

The book of Romans says:

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:13-15

So we see plainly that an automatic place of partnership is in missions giving. Ask your pastor if your church gives to missions and get involved in that. If your church doesn't give to missions pray about it, and God will show you a missionary with whom you

can partner on a monthly, or as we personally do, a weekly basis. God will richly bless you for getting involved with His global Master plan.

The next partnership is your pastor. The pastor is the primary place for partnership because that man or woman of God is teaching you life-changing truths, and pulling greatness out of you.

The book of Galatians says:

*Let him that is taught in the Word **communicate** unto him that teacheth in all good things. **Galatians 6:6***

This verse explicitly tells all believers that are being taught the Word of God that they are to *communicate* to the one who is doing the teaching *in all good things*.

In the religious church where I was raised the pastor would walk down the aisle while the dismissing prayer was

being prayed, and stand at the front door shaking hands with everyone. Different ones would *communicate* to the pastor something good about his sermon. That is not what this word *communicate* means. Certainly you can tell your pastor how the message he preached touched your heart in a good way, but you still have not done what this verse is instructing.

The word *communicate* in this verse is the Greek word *koinoneo*. Does that word look familiar? Sure it does, and this word *koinoneo* (*koy-no-neh'-o*) means *to share with others, communicate, distribute, be partaker*. This word *koinoneo* (*koy-no-neh'-o*) comes directly from *koinonos* (*koy-no-nos'*) which we have already discovered means *a sharer, a partner*.

What you can conclude from this is that the one who is teaching you the Word of God, which is first your pastor,

is with whom you are to partner in all good things. That means more than cooking your pastor a pie. No, this is talking about partnering with your pastor so that you can be a partaker of the grace that is on his life.

Do you admire your pastor? I do. Are you thankful for his dedication to God and to you in bringing an on-time Word consistently? I am.

The Lord taught Alberta and I the truth about partnership with our pastor many years ago and every week we give him a partner offering. That is besides love offerings we give him when he comes and preaches at our church. That partner offering is besides taking him out to eat, and blessing him whenever we are in position to do so. We have seen our lives abundantly blessed for it, and we have seen our own partners in the church we pastor grow both spiritually and prosperously.

The next place of possible partnerships, besides what I believe are the two mandatory partnerships of the pastor and missionary, are field ministries or the traveling preachers. If there has been a guest speaker who has consistently impacted your life, or a television ministry or internet ministry that has done the same, they may be a potential partnership for you. This partner option is where you must pray and listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

When the church is partnered properly then every part is being supplied by God through those divine partnerships.

The book of Ephesians gives us confirming truth by saying:

*From whom the whole body
fitly joined together and
compacted by that which
every joint supplieth,*

according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16

That is the beauty of partnership working in the body of Christ, the church. Every partner who is supplying his part as God instructs is then being supplied by supernatural increase in return. This leaves every partner, which is how the church is supposed to be joined, supplied and increasing.

Where Not to Partner

I am assuming that everyone who is interested in this partnership teaching knows and applies the tithe which is a foundational blessing truth. If you're not tithing, all the partnerships you could ever have will not bring the blessing into your life.

There is an assault on the tithe in these last days because it's the umbilical cord to the blessing. When something goes wrong with the umbilical cord in the womb of a pregnant mother the baby's life is in danger because the food supply has been cut off. In like manner when someone refuses to tithe, the umbilical cord to the blessing is cut off. Tithing is the blessing connector.

Don't ever partner with a ministry, no matter how big they are or how many miracles they may have, which teaches against the tithe. If you're uncertain

about the tithe get a copy of my book called Tithing Covenant, and learn this financial foundational truth.

God says in His Word that anyone of His children who doesn't tithe is a thief; and not just a thief, but a God thief.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:8-10

A tither is connected to the blessing while the non-tither, the thief, is connected to the curse. I said all that about the tithe to show you what Scripture says about where not to partner.

The book of Proverbs says:

*Whoso is partner with a thief
hateth his own soul: he
heareth cursing, and
betrayeth it not.*

Proverbs 29:24

We know this verse can't be referring to some thief in the world, believers know that already. No, this is God's Word instructing all believers not to partner with a thief, a non-tither. This verse explains that anyone who partners with a non-tithing thief must hate his own life, and is partnering with the curse. Notice what the last part of this verse says as well.

*Whoso is partner with a thief
hateth his own soul: **he
heareth cursing, and
bewrayeth it not.***

Proverbs 29:24

This non-tithing thief hears about the curse that comes from not tithing, but doesn't believe it and arrogantly stands in the middle of the curse. Don't partner with such foolishness, partner with ministries that have a history of being tithers. Don't be a partner in crime.

There may be appropriate reasons to stop your partnership with a particular ministry. One obvious reason would be if that minister fell into sin. Another one could be a change in a ministry's doctrinal beliefs that you know are not Scriptural.

I have personally had to stop partnership with ministries for these reasons, but I didn't stop partnering

altogether. I just redirected my partnership offerings to other ministries the Lord directed. I didn't use their failures as an excuse not to partner anymore somewhere in the body of Christ.

There could also be a predetermined time frame of partnership, and once it has been fulfilled is over. For example, in the church you attend your pastor may have asked for pledges for a church project which were commitments for once a month for twelve months. That is a form of a short-term partnership.

Conclusion

Partnership is a huge part of Alberta's and my steps to financial success. Ever since we discovered the truth about partnership we were all in. The ministries that we are now partnered with all know that we never ever miss our partnership commitments. In return we partake of the grace that is on their lives and then God supplies us supernaturally with what we need. We have never ever decreased our partnership giving, on the contrary we have always increased.

It's my personal belief that every born-again believer who has this partnership knowledge should partner with his pastor immediately.

Next he should locate a missionary that is producing fruit in his mission work and partner with him also.

After that, he should partner with

those other voices who have spoken tremendous life-changing truths into his destiny.

Start out somewhere in your partnership giving even if it's small. Don't deceive yourself into thinking that when you have more money you will start partnership giving. No, you're caught in the giving part of partnership only and you're forgetting the receiving part.

Let's partner up in these last days and together get the Master plan of God accomplished in the world.

In the church, there are many partnership opportunities that have gone unacknowledged or blatantly rejected for one reason or another. That doesn't mean that God does not desire partnerships within the church, in fact it is quite the opposite.

God is throwing a Holy Ghost party in these last days, and has invited all of His children to attend and to participate. Only those who join the party by partnering God's way will enjoy the fullness of this last-day outpouring.

In this book, Dr. Derber examines the Scriptures to uncover the meaning of true partnership and its purpose in the body of Christ. If you're ready to gain a working understanding of the benefit of Biblical partnership for both parties involved, then open your mind and heart as we open God's party invitation and step into divine...

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