



Partnership IS GOD'S PLAN

KEITH MOORE

PARTNERSHIP IS GOD'S PLAN

Partnership is God's plan. It's His way of doing things. And you have to do things God's way and not expect Him to adapt to you, because what *you* might want is not going to be better than what He has. He would be doing you a disservice if He adapted to you, and, of course, it's just not right anyway. He's God. He's the Lord, and He's right.

Say this out loud: "Lord, I want to do it Your way. Reveal to me Your ways."

The Bible says God's first Covenant people, the people of Israel that He delivered from Egypt, *saw His acts*. They saw what He did. But Moses *knew His ways*. One of the things that displeased Him about the people was that "they don't know My ways." And it wasn't because they couldn't find it out; they didn't want to know, and they persisted in their own ways.

You can do this without meaning to—keep trying to get God to do something *your* way, and not consider, *Did I ask Him how He wanted to do this to start with, or did I just start out trying to get Him to do it my way?*"

Say this again: "Father, reveal to me Your ways. Not my will, but Your will be done. Not my way, but Your way. Amen."

PARTNERSHIP IS HOW GOD HAS CHOSEN FOR THE MINISTRY TO OPERATE

Partnership is the way God has chosen and ordained for things to work with us, and for things to get done. It's how He has chosen for the ministries and the churches to be underwritten and to operate. He doesn't just want a couple of super-wealthy people to underwrite everything. That's not His way. He wants a lot of people to be involved, because it's not just so that the work can be done, but it's also so they will have a part. That's what a *partner* is: they have a *part* in the ministry, a *part* of the results, a *part* of the reward, and a *part* of the harvest. There are things you want a part of, aren't there? There are areas where you want to be a partner, and there are also areas you don't want to partner with.

PARTNERSHIP WAS FOUNDATIONAL IN THE EARLY DAYS OF FLC

When we were first starting the church in Branson, we didn't have the money to buy the property or secure a proper lease, but through the Lord's working, we got it and got started. At that time, representatives of some people who were billionaires came by and said they were considering paying the place off. Well, at that point, we needed everything and were thinking, *Wow, that sounds good to us*.

But over the course of the next few months, they asked us to do some things that we weren't willing to do, things that would have given them control over everything, so we just said, "No," and we didn't hear from them again.

A few months later, in July of that first year, we began our "Paid-in-Full" project, in which the church began believing to pay off the church building by paying for seats. It worked out that

\$1000 per seat in the Sanctuary would pay off the seat and everything it was bolted to—the building, the land, everything.

Well, over the course of the next couple of years, I saw people, who had been living in their car a few months earlier, come all the way out and believe God for \$1,000, and they sowed it into that project. And then they just *kept* coming up. Over the course of those next two or three years, the Lord used thousands of different people to sow into the project, and it was paid off.

And I saw it: *that* was His plan—not just that the project was done, but that *they* needed to sow the seed. Can you see that? And *they* needed to harvest. What does partner mean? You've got a *part*. You have a part of it. And so that's God's plan. That's His way of doing things.

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS IS A PARTNER LETTER

The Book of Philippians, just four chapters long, is one of the clearest examples of a partner letter. This is Paul's inspired writing to the people in the church at Philippi, and he refers to their partnership multiple times.

PAUL PRAYS FOR HIS PARTNERS ALL THE TIME

In Philippians 1:3-4, Paul said, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy." He's saying here, and he tells people in some of the other epistles as well, "I pray for you all the time." Didn't he tell them that? "I pray for you without ceasing."

Now that doesn't mean he's praying for them with every breath, but there's not a day that goes by, you might say, that he doesn't pray for them, and there's never a time when he just quits praying for them. This is a part of the way he lives. He said, "...in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship..." Now that word *fellowship* means "communion," it means "contribution," it means "partnership." And you can certainly see as you read through these four chapters of Philippians that he is talking about them being partners.

PARTNERS HAVE A PRAYER CONNECTION

Is this significant? One of the things the Lord quickened to me is this "prayer connection," and why Paul kept saying, "I pray for you." The people he's talking to were people who were again and again partners with him. Partnership is God-joining, God-joined, and it gives us a right to believe for each other and to pray for each other beyond just anybody anywhere. We have more of a right and more authority and more of a place to pray for each other and believe for each other.

AUTHORITY TO PRAY AND SPEAK OVER PARTNERS

My wife Phyllis and I pray for our church family, for our staff, and for our partners, all the time, and I notice this coming out of my mouth a lot of times. I'll say, "Lord, I'm asking for this..., I'm believing for this..., for us, and everybody that You've joined to us." Did you hear that?

“Everybody that You’ve joined to us.” And, of course, we wouldn’t know about it unless the person that God dealt with responded—unless they responded to that prompting, and are joined to us in faith, in prayer, in finances, in attendance, whatever the case may be. But I know in my spirit, and Phyllis and I have talked about this at length, that we have a right to pray for *these* people more than other people. We have a right.

I’ll be speaking over our staff sometimes, and they may not know it. I may be in another country, but I’m praying about something, and I’m saying, “Lord, I ask Your hand on them today. I ask You to quicken them, renew them, refresh them, show them what to see and do. I claim with them a good harvest off of every good seed that they have sown. And for everybody that’s joined to us, I speak over them and over their families and over their marriages.” I have a right to pray and speak over them. Do you see what I’m talking about? Paul knew he had a right, and Jesus, of course, had a right to pray this way.

When God joins us this way, there is a measure of faith, a measure of authority, that leadership has the freedom, and the right, and even the responsibility to speak and say over *them* that they don’t have over everybody.

There have been a few times when something would come up, and the Lord would tell me, “No, now you don’t have a lot of authority over them. They’re not under you.” Did you hear that? I can ask for mercy, like anybody could, but I can’t start declaring.

Do you hear what Paul is saying in Philippians 4:19? “My God shall supply.” This is not begging and asking for mercy. “My God shall supply all your needs.” This is a Holy Spirit quickened, anointed declaration. Why is Paul speaking so boldly like that? Because they have said to him repeatedly that they’re partners with him. And he has a right, and we have a right, to speak over you and yours. Oh, it matters that you hear God, and when He tells you, “Become a part of that,” that you obey, and that you don’t let the enemy cause you to get offended and miffed and hurt some way and run off and unhook. Stay hooked where God hooked you, and you will be blessed.

JESUS PRAYED FOR THE TWELVE—AND FOR US

Look at John 17, and notice what Jesus said. This whole chapter is Jesus praying. He’s praying for the disciples, the twelve. Then He broadens it out and says He’s praying not just for them, but for everybody that will believe because of their words. Have you ever been affected by the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Well, Jesus was praying for *you*. That’s recorded in this prayer. But now notice one thing that He said in verse nine. Jesus said, “I pray for them,” now this includes us, like I said. “I pray not for the world,” I’m not praying for everybody. I’m praying for *them*. Why? Because the world didn’t accept Him. The world doesn’t believe Him. The world is not a partner with Him. Can you see that? The connection is not there. He said, “I pray not for the world, but for them which you have given me; for they are yours. And all mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to you. Holy Father, keep through your own name those you have given me...” Is He praying for them like He has a right to pray for them? That they have been given to Him? “...that they may be one, as we are.” (John 17:9-11)

You might say, *Well yes, that's Jesus. He's the Head of the Church.* Yes, but He's not operating as God in the earth at this time. He's operating as a human being, as a man, with no unfair advantage over us, giving us the perfect Example of how to pray and how to believe and how to lead.

JESUS KEPT THOSE THE FATHER GAVE HIM

In verse 12, He says, "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name: those that you gave me..." See, He mentions that again: the ones you gave Me. "I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition;" that's Judas Iscariot, "that the scripture might be fulfilled." He was the only one that He lost, and all the rest He kept; He was able to keep them.

JESUS HAD PARTNERS

Luke 8:1 says, "And it came to pass afterward, that he," Jesus, "went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings," that's the Good News, "of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him..." Is He doing the ministry? He is. He's traveling, He's preaching.

"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities," this would be both mental and emotional problems, and physical problems. "Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils," she was probably basically out of her mind. (v. 3)

"And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others," not just a couple, but *many* others, did what? "...ministered to him." They ministered to Jesus, and His team, who were doing what? They were going to all the cities, preaching the Gospel. They "ministered to him of their substance." That's their money and things, their material things.

So, did Jesus have partners? Yes, He did. And who were His principal partners? People who had been healed and delivered through His ministry.

If you were Mary Magdalene, who had all of those demons, and now you are free, and you have peace, and you have joy, what better thing to do if you have money? Is that right?

OBEY GOD'S DIRECTION TO GIVE

In Philippians 4:19, when Paul says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus," that was preceded by him saying they had sent to him repeatedly. And he said no other church was involved with him concerning giving and receiving but them. Well, that's not right. Where are all these other churches that he started? None of them are being the partners that they should be.

It's important that you obey God when He deals with you about giving. Why? Because you may be the only one who listens and obeys. You don't want to just look around and assume, "Well, there are lots of people here, and they don't even need my *this* or *that*." What does that have to do with anything? You want to hear from God, and you want to obey God every day of your life—not just in church, but everywhere, all the time.

Sadly, there are a lot of folks who come to services and sit and receive, but they don't give. A lot of people. I'm not going to say that's the people in our services, but that's just how it is in a lot of places, in a lot of situations. And it's not our job to try to check up and try to make anybody do anything, but do you want to be a part of something? Do you want to be a partner with something?

PARTNERS HAVE A "PART" IN ALL THAT HAPPENS

Let's stop a moment and consider something. Do folks enjoy us having our own building, with our own chairs and our own air conditioning? Somebody gave, right? A lot of "somebodies" gave in times past to be able to get this property, to be able to build and develop it. We were there and know what it took, every step of the way. And those people—some of them are already in heaven now—but the people who sowed to make this happen, do they have a part of everything that happens in this building? They have a part of every person that comes to the Lord, or comes back to the Lord, or receives a healing or an answer or a deliverance. Why? Because without the building, you couldn't be having meetings here in it. So, it is so important to obey.

Paul said, "For your fellowship," your partnership, "in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which has begun a good work in you," my partners, "will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:5-6)

He just talked about their fellowship, their partnership in the Gospel, and then he says it again in the next verse, "Even as it is meet," a right, "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, you all are partakers of my grace." (v. 7)

They were partners with him. As we saw in the fourth chapter, they had sent him financial and material things over and over again. And he's saying, "We're connected. We're joined. You've got a part of what's going on with me, and I've got a part of what's happening with you." He told them, "You actually are also a partaker of my grace—of the grace that's on me to do this...." the grace for apostleship, for the Gospel, for starting churches, for all of that.

PARTNERS HAVE THE SAME ETERNAL REWARD

The Lord takes personally what you do for His people. In Matthew 10:40, Jesus said, "He that receives you receives me, and he that receives me receives him that sent me." If you receive a person for what God has called, anointed, and sent them to be and do, and particularly if you help them do what God has called them to do, you will receive a part of the same reward they receive.

He goes on to say, "...he that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." (Matt. 10: 41) This is a person in Christ, a good believer, a righteous person. He says you'll receive a righteous man's reward if you help them. Then He says in verse 42, "...whoever shall give to drink one of these little ones a cup of cold water only

in the name of a disciple...” You’re not just giving them a cup of water because they’re thirsty; you went to some effort to help them.

Why? Because of *Whose* they are, *Who* they belong to, *Who* called them. He said, “...in the name of a disciple...” You could say it like this: *because they are a disciple, because they are a righteous person, because they are a prophet, a man or woman of God.* “Verily I say to you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” That is a sure reward.

Some years ago, I was teaching on these things, and I wrote that statement down, about you receiving a part of the same reward, and I just stopped. I said, “Now, Lord, is that right? I don’t want to say that if that’s not right. A part of the same reward?”

And the Lord asked me this question. He said, “Can you,” and He’s talking about Phyllis and me and us, “Can you do what you’re doing without your partners?” I said, “No.” He said, “Then without them, it wouldn’t get done, right? So, if they’re a part of it getting done, it’s only right that they get a part of the same eternal reward.” That ought to make you shout the rest of the day.

We’re reaping millions, and we’re reaching millions. Our partners have a part of the fruit of that, a part of the results of that, and a part of the reward of that.

PAUL HAS THEM IN HIS HEART

Look again at Philippians 1:6-7, and we will see another aspect of this partnership. “Being confident of this very thing, that he which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart...”

How did it happen that Paul had them in his heart? Do you have *everybody* in your heart? You don’t *know* everybody, right? And with a lot of people that you *do* meet, you met them, they left, and that was it. They don’t think much about you, and you don’t think much about them. But what does it mean? “I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers,” part takers, “of my grace.” Can you see why I said this is a partner letter? He’s talking about partnership, having a “part of.” He said, “You all are partakers of my grace.”

RECEIVED THE SAME PROVISION THEMSELVES

Before the book is over, Paul talks about them sending finances and material things to him repeatedly, and how, during that time, they were the *only* ones that did, out of all of the churches. That’s when he said to them, after thanking them for sending him the material and financial provision, “And *my* God is going to supply all *your* needs according to His riches,” just like God had done for him. That’s why he said, *my* God, the God that just took care of me, *my* God is going to take care of *you*. But he’s talking to partners, people that were joined and hooked.

JOINED WITHOUT DIVISIONS

In 1 Corinthians 1:10, he says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” In Ephesians 4:16, he says, “...the whole body [is] fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part,” of every part. And what is the result? It makes increase. This joining together, and everybody working together, results in “increase of the body unto the edifying,” or building up, “of itself in love.”

STAY JOINED IN YOUR PLACE

In Philippians 1:7, when Paul said, “...I have you in my heart,” what happened there? The Bible talks about, concerning the first king of Israel, that God touched men’s hearts, and they were joined with him and went with him. God touches hearts, and He joins people in groups and teams and churches and ministries. You and I, we’re just individuals. We have a limited amount of time and resources and strength every day of our lives. We can’t be a part of everything or know everything. We’re not supposed to. But there is a *place* where you’re supposed to be hooked, to be joined, and there’s supposed to be a communion, a sharing. You have a part, and they have a part. When we put all of our parts together, look out! Big things can happen when we all focus on it and contribute at the same time.

The Bible says, concerning husbands and wives, “What God has joined together,” don’t let anybody separate. (Matthew 19:6) Well, why would you need to say that? How many husbands and wives have been severed, divorced, separated? As surely as God joins you to somebody, to some group, the enemy is going to do his best to separate you from it and sever you from it, to get you offended some way, hurt some way, mad some way, or confused some way, so that you unhook. The problem with that is if you unhook and go, if you leave and say, “Well, I’ll be a part of something else,” then that’s *you* joining yourself to something else. It doesn’t mean *God* joins you to it. Sadly, there are a lot of these situations around, when people have just joined something themselves.

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

In Luke 15, the Bible talks about what we call the prodigal son. Verse 14 says, “When he had spent all [that he had], there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.” Now, this is “Missing God 101.” You ignore God, you go off and do your thing, you party hearty, and guess what? Just about the time you run out of money, the bottom falls out of the economy. And all of your buddies that enjoyed being around you while you were spending money, you can’t find a one of them. Now you are broke and alone. So what did he do? Verse 15 says, “He went and joined himself to a citizen of that country;” and what does he send him to do? About the worst job a young Jewish boy could have: he sent him to the pig trough, to the pig pen, to feed the pigs.

Now this is what can happen when you unhook from where you’re supposed to be, and then you go try to join yourself to other things and people, when God never told you to do it. Where is this

boy supposed to be? He's supposed to be at home, with his father, with all his needs met, enjoying a good life.

The Bible says, in 2 Corinthians 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness?" What's the answer? None. "...and what communion has light with darkness?" None.

JOINED IN THE BODY AS IT PLEASURES HIM

Partnership is not just hearing about a ministry or church that has a need, and you think, well, okay, I'll give something to them. It's much, much more than this. It's much greater. God has set every one of us in the body as it has pleased Him. And in the body, some body parts have a lot more direct connection and communion than other parts. My foot doesn't have a lot of direct fellowship with my right ear. I mean, it's possible it could get around there, but most of the time, it has no direct fellowship. But my hand and my wrist, all the time. Why? They are joined directly together. And you know, my wrist wouldn't work this way anywhere else in the body. It only works the way it's supposed to work, in the place it's supposed to be. That's what partnership is.

God will touch your heart about a thing, and when He does, you want to respect that. That's not something the people did that makes you want to be a part of it. That's not something you did. That's something God did. And when it is God-joined, what God has joined together, don't let anybody, any demon, any problem, any getting mad, any getting upset, any getting offended, don't let anything sever that God-ordained, God-joined connection.

GOD'S JOININGS ARE FOREVER

I feel confident, and the Bible says, that what God does is forever. I feel confident these joinings last past this life. So, we better get used to each other, and appreciate each other, because we could be seeing a lot of each other for a long, long, long time. So partnership is not just something that people do; it's something that God has done. God-joined. So respect that, protect that, and be faithful with that. Wherever you're supposed to be, be there, and be faithful. Sow that, and that's what you will reap, too. You will reap faithfulness, and people will be faithful to you.

GOD INITIATES THE PARTNERSHIP AND WE OBEY

As we said, partnership is not something that *you* initiate. It's something you obey in. Partnership, when it is a true and right partnership in the Gospel, is God-joined. He joins you. He puts people, ministries, ministers, churches, missionaries, whoever, on your heart, and He gives you a place in their heart. And that's not something *you* do. That's not something *they* did. It's something God did. And as I said, I expect that this lasts beyond this life, because the Bible says what God does is forever.

PARTAKERS OF SPIRITUAL THINGS SHOULD MINISTER IN NATURAL THINGS

Romans 15:27 says, "...For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in carnal," or their *natural*, "things." Spiritual things, natural things.

The Wuest Translation says it like this: "... [if] the Gentiles were fellow-partakers of their spiritual things, they are under moral obligation to minister to them in the sphere of things needed for the sustenance of the body, considering this material ministry as a sacred service."

In the New Living Translation, he said, "Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially."

This is a principle of God—that if you've been ministered to spiritually, then you should minister to that materially. You have to be clear on this, though. You are not trying to pay for anything. It's insulting to try to pay for what only the Blood of Jesus could pay for. You cannot buy or pay for a blessing, a salvation, a deliverance, or a healing. Then why, if you've been ministered to spiritually, should you minister back materially? It's a way of showing that you value it, and it's a way of you helping it get to somebody else.

In 1 Corinthians, he said a similar thing about that. First Corinthians 9:11 says, "If we have sown to you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal," or material, "things?" We should be partners with ministries and churches, with those that have helped us spiritually. We're not trying to pay for it, but we're valuing it and helping it to get to others.

I want to keep saying it: Partnership is God's plan. That's His way of taking care of the finances of the churches and the ministries. It's His plan; it's His way.

PARTNER, SO OTHERS RECEIVE

Anybody can be a partner—even for fifty cents a month, or a dollar a month. You don't have to have a lot of money, but to do nothing is to not even try. And no, you can't be partners with everything; you're not supposed to be. But with the person or ministry that God used to get the Gospel to you, to get the word of faith to you, to help you get free, to help you grow, to help you get your healing—you should be a partner.

SMALL BEGINNINGS TO GREAT INCREASE

We have some partners who have been with us now for 10 years, 20 years, and even pushing 30 years. The Lord recently reminded me of the scripture in Job that says, "Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end should greatly increase." (8:7) When we first started out in ministry, back in the mid-1980s, we were small, but we've gotten bigger, and our partners, they were small, but they've gotten bigger, and all of it is increasing. In fact, over the past several months, many of our long-time partners have been sending offerings in bigger increments—

sometimes 10 times what they've sent before! And the Lord quickened to me that He is increasing our partners.

In sowing and reaping, God's will is that you start off with something He has joined you to, and over the course of months and years, all of you grow, all of you increase. You all get stronger and stronger, and reach more, with more.

SEEK THE LORD ABOUT YOUR PARTNERSHIP

It is good to take an assessment: Should I be a partner with that? Everybody can have a part. Some have a bigger part, and some have a smaller part, but you can have a part, if you want to. It's right to sow material things when you've reaped spiritual things. But again, are you trying to pay for anything? No, you can't pay for it. It's already paid for, and all the money in the world couldn't buy a salvation, can't buy a healing, and can't buy a deliverance. No, you just are thankful, and you know that there are ongoing needs for these things, and you want this.

Do you want the Word, that has helped *you*, to go all over the world and help millions more? Some are anointed to do the actual "going" and preaching and ministering, but many can be involved in sending them. The Scripture says, "How shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Romans 10:15)

So, get before the Lord and pray about these things. Check your heart to see if you should be a partner with a particular ministry. Ask the Lord if you should increase your partnership. Pray about these things when you're looking at your vision list for the coming year, because that's number one on the vision list: What am I doing for the kingdom of God?

Partnership IS GOD'S PLAN

Partnership is God's plan. It's His way of doing things. It's how He has chosen for ministries and churches to be underwritten and to operate.

He wants a lot of people to be involved, not only so the work can be done, but so they will have a part. That's what a partner is—a person who has a part in the ministry, a part of the results, a part of the reward, and a part of the harvest.

True partnership is God-joined, and it gives us a right to pray and believe for each other. As you read this book, seek the Lord, and ask Him where He would have you be a partner.



Keith Moore is the founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church of both Branson, Missouri and Sarasota, Florida. Brother Moore's ministry emphasizes the importance of the written Word, the necessity of being led by the Spirit, and the practice of living by faith. Faith is how God functions, and we're to imitate Him. By faith, we please and receive from God.

You will find the teaching ministry of Brother Keith rich with revelation yet easy to understand and to put into practice.

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