

My Partner

#0598

Study given by W.D. Frazee—February 5, 1982

I have something wonderful to share with you tonight. We are laborers together with God. We are God's fellow workers. I want to put it in the singular number. God is my partner. God and I are partners. The implications of this are tremendous. When men go into partnership they each put in assets. You can guess about what I have to put in, but you can't even imagine how much God has to put in. Jesus says:

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:18-20.

So God has every recourse this universe holds, and more if He needs them. He is the fountain of wisdom, the fountain of love, the source of everything good and wonderful and successful, and He has put it all into this partnership that He shares with me.

If that were poetry it would make a nice poem. If it were a song it would be something to sing about. But the beautiful thing is that it is a fact.

"God has a heaven full of blessing for all those who will cooperate with Him" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 145.

What does co-operate mean? It means to work together, to be in partnership. And God's heaven is full of blessing for all who will cooperate with Him. We can never be placed in a place for which God has not made provision, if we surrender our lives to His service. My Senior Partner has everything I need.

Over a hundred years ago in Battle Creek there was a young man by the name of John Kellogg. While still a young man he was financed by James and Ellen White to take the medical course and come back and be the editor of the health reform magazine, and be the medical superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium. When he started to use the word sanitarium as the name of what had been called the health institute there in Battle Creek, someone said to him that the word sanitarium is not in the dictionary. He said it will be.

I have a little book in my hand. It is over a hundred years old. I read:

"November 23, 1879, some things were shown me in reference to the institutions among us, and the duties and

dangers of those who occupy a leading position in connection with them. I saw that Doctor Kellogg had been raised up to do a special work as God's instrument, to be led, guided, and controlled by His Spirit. He is to answer to the claims of God and never to feel that he is his own property, and that he can employ his powers as he shall deem most profitable to himself. ... It is a dangerous age for any man who has talents which can be of value in the work of God. Satan is constantly applying his temptations upon such a person, ever trying to fill him with pride and ambition. And when God would use him, in nine cases out of ten he becomes independent, self-sufficient, and feels capable of standing alone. This will be your danger, Doctor Kellogg, unless you live a life of constant faith and prayer." *Counsels on Health*, pages 366-367.

The terms of partnership with God are full surrender and full trust. God has put everything He has into this partnership, and He expects me to put in everything I have.

Oh, what a warning. As God longed to save Peter from failure, He longed to save Doctor John Harvey Kellogg. I want you to notice what the recipe for success is as I read further:

"Your feeling of dependence will drive you to prayer, and your sense of duties summons you to effort. Prayer and effort, effort and prayer will be the business of your life. You must pray as though the efficiency in praise were all due to God, and labor as the duty were all your own" *Ibid*.

What does our sense of dependence drive us to? Prayer. What does our sense of duties drive us to? Effort. And if we lose the sense of dependence what will we lose out of our lives? Prayer. This was his danger. This is what happened.

I am to pray as if it all depends on God, and work as if it depends on me. That is a wonderful combination. These are the terms of the partnership.

"If you want power you may have it. It is awaiting your draft upon it. Only believe in God, taking Him at His word, and act by faith, and blessing will come" *Ibid*.

Thank God for what was accomplished in Battle Creek as different ones, including Doctor Kellogg, were in partnership with God. We sorrow for those who missed the way and slipped, because they came to depend upon self instead of God. They forgot that He was their senior partner. God help us that we may succeed where they failed. God wants us to be a success. Pray as if everything depends on God, and then work as if everything depends on us. We are not to sit in the nest as trustful little birds and wait until an angel comes and drops food in our mouths. No. They have to get out and scratch for it. God wants His children to learn these lessons of partnership. All the scratching in the world would prove

ineffectual unless the great Creator is constantly at work providing that which the birds scratched to get.

I want to stress the infinite possibilities of this partnership. There are only two things that can limit what happens as we enter in. One is God purpose, and the other is our response. This partnership will someday enable us to fly from here to heaven, but not today. We don't need to go today. In fact, it is better for us to stay here. So to say that if I had enough faith I could fly away from the planet today wouldn't be faith, it would be presumption. God wants us in the partnership with Him to learn the difference between faith and presumption.

Faith know that as far as God's ability and willingness is concerned, He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think. We tend to limit ourselves by what we can see and feel and know. But God is continually seeking to attract our thoughts to Him, and to the infinite power and wisdom we can claim.

This partnership, and its blessed results, is to be experience both in temporal and spiritual things. If I am in business, I want God as my senior partner. Of course, there is some business He wouldn't get in for anything. So if I want God as my partner, there are some business I won't be in. But even in that which is legitimate, it would be a courteous thing, as well as a sensible thing, to ask God what business He wants to go into partnership with me instead of finding what I think is a good business and inviting Him to be my partner. It would indicate the proper relationship and a proper attitude.

When Jesus was here on earth He spent more of His time healing than He did teaching and preaching. But there was something else that He spent more time in than He did in healing and preaching put together. It was in the carpenter shop. I don't think He built a tavern or a dance hall when He was a carpenter. No.

I want to be doing every minute of every day something that I know God is interested in accomplishing. That is my privilege if I am in partnership with Him. Of course, it may not make me rich. Jesus' carpenter work didn't make Him rich. His medical missionary work didn't make Him rich. He died a poor man. The only legacy He left was the clothes that his executioners gambled over, and the gift of His mother to John to take care of. But isn't that the legacy of peace?

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you" John 14:27.

The one who is in partnership with God in temporal things, while he is going to work with all his heart to accomplish what he thinks God wants done, he is not going to measure his success by how rich he gets. He is going to measure success in terms of the smile of God, the approval of heaven.

Think of the great help this partnership gives us in undertaking temporal things, whether in what we call the Lord's work, or whether in our own private lives. There is no limit to the usefulness to the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit. That doesn't mean that I take chances. It doesn't mean that I cast myself down from the pinnacle of the temple expecting the angels to

pick me up. It means that anything God wants done can be done by the man who believes in the power of God, and puts his life on the line in partnership with Him.

I have been telling you some of the wonderful experiences that God has given us these forty years on this campus, and I can testify to the glory of my Lord that He has never let us down. That doesn't mean that I hasten to ask that everything we dreamed of came true, and everything we planned for happened. Oh, no. Something infinitely better happened. What He dreamed and planned is so much better than our plans.

“Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed”
Ministry of Healing, page 473.

So part of the terms of the partnership are willingness to have what looks like our human plans delayed or defeated or torn to pieces, and all the way through God is working out His will.

Jesus said that one of the greatest prophets up to His time was John the Baptist. If we look into the first century after Jesus' death I think some of us would agree that one of the greatest ones was Paul. What happened to John the Baptist and Paul? The same thing. They closed their lives by having their heads cut off. Were they failures then? Oh, no. The terms of the partnership are that the servant is not greater than his master. Jesus had a death that was far more cruel and torturous than having His head cut off. He was crucified. Peter shared that. And Jesus died the sad and terrible death of the transgressor in our behalf.

My point is that partnership with Christ includes carrying the cross as well as wearing the crown. Will John the Baptist have a crown? Will Peter have a crown? Oh yes. Through eternal ages. And doubtless they will echo those words of Ellen Harmon who was led to repeat in a vision of 1844, “Heaven is cheap enough.”

I was thinking of this wonderful partnership in all we can experience and claim in terms of health. Jesus says that if we will listen to what He says, He will heal us. Can He heal us? Does He want to? Does He do it? What can I claim? I can claim all the power of heaven as much as I will open my heart and body to, and as much as He sees is for my best good. The blessing of the Holy Spirit touches organs far removed from the brain. While the Spirit works here in the forebrain, it is working in the kidneys and bones and joints. So in partnership with God I have the privilege of drawing on all those resources.

Somebody may be thinking, “Brother Frazee, why doesn't your hand quite shaking then?”

That's God's problem. I mean that. If I knew something to do about it, I would. But if I don't know, whose problem is it? It is His problem.

Paul received a thorn in the flesh. We are told by inspiration that this was weak eyes that came following the great miracle where Paul met the Savior on the Damascus road. He never recovered his eyesight. That poor eyesight was a constant reminder of the fact that Jesus had to strike him on the Damascus road in

order to get his attention. Paul was one of the greatest scholars of the ages. He loved to read and study. But now he is troubled with weak eyes, so he prayed about it. He prayed once, and they didn't get any better. He prayed twice, and they didn't get any better. Paul, you don't have enough faith. If you had faith, those eyes would be to where they ought to be. Three times he prayed, and then he got an answer. The answer was not better eyesight. It was what?

“And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” 2 Corinthians 12:9.

I think of Ellen White. Not once nor twice, but many times she had to go into the pulpit when it seemed she would totter and stagger and fall, and she would have to hang onto the pulpit with both hands. But God sustained and blessed and used her.

What does sufficient mean? It means enough. It is all we need. Oh, but Lord, I want, I want.

Listen. The terms of the partnership are these: Instead of praying for what I want, I pray for what He wants. My endeavor in the partnership is not to get God on my side so I will get what I want. It is to get me on His side so He will get what He wants.

Sometimes the very thing that leads us to seek the Lord has in it at least a few ounces of selfishness. But God is patient with us while we learn. He didn't turn away from James and John when they came asking for the highest place. He didn't rebuke their mother who was seeking the high position for her sons. He used their request to teach a precious lesson. They must drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism. They learned the lesson. James was another one who had his head cut off. John was the longest of the brethren to linger in toil and sacrifice for a better part of a century.

Oh friends, we have a wonderful God. The more we enter into this partnership, the less we will be burdened to pray that some physical or financial benefit will come to us personally. We may pray about our needs. God wants us to. We are little children. He expects us to ask like little children. But He wants us to trust. He wants us to learn the precious lesson of casting all our care upon Him, for He cares for us.

When Paul became a follower of Jesus he was a rich man. He had one of the highest positions in the Jewish nation. He became a poor man on this partnership, and died in Rome as a sacrifice to his faith in Christ. And remember, at any time during those long weary years Paul could have turned his back on that walk of sacrifice, he could have taken up a career that would have netted him position and fame and wealth, as well as convenience and comfort. But he was always looking at the cross. His partnership with Jesus was such that he would rather be with Christ in sacrifice than to feather his own nest. I want to learn that lesson. What do you say?

But these lessons we learn in partnership with Jesus in hearing and receiving His blessings in temporal things are to lead us into a deeper experience of partnership with Him in spiritual things. In victory over sin and winning souls. In meeting the temptations of Satan in our own lives, and reaching out to help other to accept Jesus. Here is where the great fruits of partnership are especially to be grown and manifested.

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” 1 John 5:14.

Confidence means assurance, trust. We are sure of something. I can have anything in the universe I ask for provided it is His will, and I meet the conditions.

That isn't big enough for some people. Some people would want to know what the winning lottery number is. Is God going to answer that prayer? I don't think so. Not because He couldn't, but because He has something infinitely better.

Some people would like to have the Lord answer their prayers for convenience and comfort, with security. But God is seeking to lead us into the experience of longing for other souls to be converted, and longing for our own heart to be more and more like Him. And the more we enter into prayer from that standpoint, the more it pleases Jesus. This is the confidence we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him.

The great object of prayer in getting anything we ask is praying for other souls that are weak and need help. We are praying for brothers and sisters who have slipped and fallen, and people out in the world who have never experienced salvation.

The president of a great university put it this way: The more a man has to live for is the less he needs to live on. Think it over. What are you living for? I praise God for the experience that God offers everyone of us a partnership with Him in the greatest work in the world.

The business Peter was in before he met Jesus was fishing. Jesus went into a partnership with him for a few minutes to show him what was possible. His boat got so full it started to sink. Isn't that a wonderful fishing partnership? But Jesus had a purpose in it. He said, Peter, I want you to catch men from now on. Did Peter do it? Praise God. When they pulled in the nets on the Day of Pentecost there were three thousand human fish. A boat full? Yes, and overflowing.

Is it going to happen again? Will you be a part of it? Even if it is in poverty, hardship, misunderstanding and difficulty, don't miss your destiny. Jesus wants you to be a partner with Him. He wants to lead you through the solution of little problems, and on into sharing with Him the ingathering of souls.

I want to read two of the most wonderful sentences that inspiration has given us:

“The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence” *The Desire of Ages*, page 827.

Oh, with solemn awe I look at those words and listen to them. What does Omnipotence mean? All power. Who is it that does the deeds of Omnipotence? Human beings that are weak. Human beings that longs for temporal help. But God has something better. Something better than taking out the thorn in the flesh. “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Let’s start doing just what Jesus says regardless what happens to us. What do you say? We are expendable. What happens to us is secondary. What happened to Jesus in His plan and program is of infinite consequence. And the paradox of it is that he that gives his life for My sake, Jesus says, the same shall save it. What a fellowship with Jesus. What a joy in this partnership from day to day. Every morning our first thought is, Lord, what is Your plan for today. My Lord and I are walking this road.

Let’s send Jesus the word that we want Him to be our partner?

Copyright 2019. All rights reserved.

W.D. Frazee Sermons
P.O. Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org