

# My Partner

#0598

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

I've been looking forward all week to this occasion. And as the psalmist sings:

"My heart is inditing a good matter..." Psalm 45:1.

I have something wonderful to share with you tonight, simple, wonderful.

"...We are labourers together with God..." 1 Corinthians 3:9.

As another translation puts it:

"...We are God's fellow workers..." 1 Corinthians 3:9  
(unknown version).

I want to put it in the first person singular number.

"God is my partner. God and I are partners."

Now, the implications of this are tremendous. You know, when men go into partnership, they each put in certain assets. You can guess about what I've got to put in, but you can't even imagine how much God has to put into that partnership.

Jesus says in Matthew 28:18–20:

"...All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth"  
Matthew 28:18.

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

Now, if that were just poetry, it would make a nice poem. If it were just a song, it'd be something to sing about. But the beautiful thing is, the wonderful thing is, it's a fact, dear friends. That's what I want to study with you a little tonight, some of the practical implications and applications of this tremendous fact of God's partnership with us.

In *Christ Object Lessons*, page 145, I read:

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

“God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will cooperate with Him” *Ibid.*

What does “cooperate” mean? It means to work together, to be in partnership.  
And:

“God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will cooperate with Him” *Ibid.*

In *Christ Object Lessons*, 175, it’s put this way:

“If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 175.

Isn’t that nice? If there’s a flat tire or something worse happens on a trip, God has already looked ahead and made what? Provision. And:

“...We can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision” *Ibid.*

“If we surrender our lives to His service...” *Ibid.*

My Partner, my Senior Partner (I’m the junior partner), has everything that I need.

Over a hundred years ago in Battle Creek, there was a young man by the name of John Kellogg. And while still a young man, he was financed by James and Ellen White to go and take the medical course and come back and be the editor of the health reform magazine and the medical superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

It’s said that when he first started to use that word “sanitarium” as the name of what had been called the Health Reform Institute there in Battle Creek, somebody said to Dr. Kellogg, “That word isn’t in the dictionary.”

He says, “It will be.”

I have a little book in my hand, and the book is over a hundred years old. The binding isn’t, but the book is, you can see. You’re looking at it.

“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 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" *Medical Ministry*, page 35.

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 everything I have.

The next page of this little book, it says this:

"It is a dangerous age for any man who has talents which can be of value in the work of God; for Satan is constantly plying 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, Dr. Kellogg, unless you live a life of constant faith and prayer" *Counsels on Health*, pages 367.

Oh, what a prophecy! What a warning! As God longed to save Peter from failure, He longed to save Dr. John Harvey Kellogg.

Now, I want to read a little further, and I want you to notice what the recipe for success is:

"Your feeling of dependence will drive you to prayer and your sense of duty summon you to effort" *Ibid.*

What does our sense of dependence drive us to? Prayer. And what does our sense of duty drive us to? Effort. And if we lose the sense of dependence, what'll we lose out of our lives, then? Prayer. And we just put effort, effort, effort. This was his danger. It's what happened.

"Prayer and effort, effort and prayer will be the business of your life. You must pray as though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labor as though duty were all your own" *Ibid.*

I'm to pray, then, as if it all depended on whom? God. And work as if it depended on me. Isn't that a wonderful combination? These are the terms of the partnership.

By the way, would you like to have a copy of what I've just read? You'll find it in a little book called *Counsels on Health*, page 367. You'll find the words I've just read. You'll not find the word "Kellogg" there. There's a blank, but you can write in "Kellogg" if you want to because that's what it is.

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

Thank God for all that was accomplished in old Battle Creek, as different ones, including Dr. Kellogg, were in partnership with God. But we sorrow for those who missed the way and slipped because they came to depend upon what? Self, instead of God. They forgot that He was the Senior Partner. God help us that you and I may succeed where they failed. What do you say?

God wants us to be a success. Pray as if everything depended on God, and then work as if everything depended on us. We're not to sit in the nest as trustful little birds and wait for an angel to come and drop the food in our bills. No. They have to get out and scratch for it. God wants His children to learn these lessons of partnership. But all the scratching in the world would prove ineffectual unless the great Creator was constantly at work providing that which the bird scratched to get, right?

Now, I said that I wanted to stress tonight the infinite possibilities of this partnership. There are only two things that can limit what happens as we enter into this partnership. One is God's purpose, and the other is our response.

This partnership someday is going to enable us to fly from here to heaven, but not today. We don't need to go today. In fact, it's better for me to stay here. And so, to say that if I had enough faith, I could fly away from this planet today wouldn't be faith, it would be what? Presumption.

God wants us in the partnership with Him to learn the difference between faith and presumption. But faith knows—don't miss this—that as far as God's ability and willingness is concerned, He's:

“...able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think...” Ephesians 3:20.

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 experienced both in temporal and spiritual things. If I'm in business, I want God as my Senior Partner. Of course, there are some businesses He wouldn't get in for anything. Am I correct? Yes. So, if I want God as my Partner, there are some businesses I won't be in.

But even in that which is legitimate, would it be a courteous thing, as well as a sensible thing, to ask God what business He wants to go into partnership with me in, instead of finding what I think is a good business and inviting God to be my Partner? What do you think? It would indicate a proper relationship, a proper attitude, wouldn't it?

When Jesus was here on earth showing us how to live, He spent more of His life, more of His time healing than He did teaching and preaching, didn't He? But there was something else that He spent more time in than He did healing and preaching put together. Do you know what that was? Carpenter shop. I don't think

He built a tavern or a dance hall all the time that He was a carpenter, do you? No, no.

I want to be every minute, every hour, every day doing something that I know God is interested in accomplishing. And that's my privilege if I'm in partnership with Him. Of course, it may not make me rich. Jesus' carpenter work didn't make Him rich. And His medical missionary work didn't make Him rich, either, did it? No. 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 her the rest of her life. But oh, He left a 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's going to work with all his heart to accomplish what he thinks God wants done, he's not going to measure his success by how rich he gets. Rather, he's going to measure success in terms of the smile of God, the approval of heaven.

But think of the great help that this partnership gives us in undertaking temporal things, whether in what we call the Lord's work or our own private lives.

"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit..." *Desire of Ages*, page 250.

That doesn't mean that I take chances and act presumptuously. It doesn't mean that I cast myself down from the pinnacle of the temple expecting the angels to pick me up. But it means, friends—and don't miss this—that anything that God wants done, can be done by the man that believes in the power of God and puts his life on the line in partnership with Him.

The last two weeks, I've been telling you a few of the wonderful experiences that God has given us these 40 years on this campus, and I can testify to the glory of my Lord that He's never let us down, never let us down. And that doesn't mean, I hasten to add, that everything we dreamed of came true, everything we planned for happened. No, no. Something infinitely better, what *He* has planned, what *He* has dreamed about. That's so much better than our plans.

What did I read to you last Friday night? *Ministry of Healing*, 473:

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

Will you repeat it with me again?

"Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed"  
*Ibid.*

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, but all the way through, God is working out His will.

I was thinking of two of the greatest prophets in all the Bible. Who did Jesus say was one of the greatest prophets up to His time? John the Baptist. And if we look in the first century after Jesus' death, I think some of us would agree that perhaps one of the greatest ones was Paul. Would you say so?

Do you know what happened to John the Baptist and Paul? The same thing. How did they close their lives? Beheaded; had their head cut off. Well, they were failures then, weren't they? No, no, no. The terms of the partnership are that the servant is not greater than his master [a paraphrase of John 13:16].

Jesus had a death that was far more cruel and torturous than beheading. He was crucified. Peter shared that. And Jesus died the sad and terrible death of the transgressor in our behalf.

My point is, partnership with God includes carrying the cross, as well as wearing the crown eventually. Will John the Baptist have a crown? Will Peter have a crown? Oh yes, through eternal ages. And doubtless, they'll echo those words that Ellen Harmon, along with others, was led to repeat in the vision in December 1844, "Heaven is cheap enough," "Heaven is cheap enough."

I was thinking of this wonderful partnership in all we can experience and claim in terms of health, meeting the problems of sickness. Jesus says if we'll listen to what He says, He's the Lord that does what? Heals us [a paraphrase of Exodus 15:26]. 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'll open my heart and body to, 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 of God works here in the forebrain, it's working in the liver and the kidneys, the bones and the joints. Am I correct? So, in partnership with God, I have the privilege of drawing on all those resources.

Now, somebody may be thinking quite practically and say, "Brother Frazee, why doesn't your hand quit shaking, then?"

That's His problem. No, I mean that. If I knew something to do about it, I ought to do it, don't you think? But if I *don't* know, then whose problem is it? It's His problem.

Turn over to 2 Corinthians the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, the 9<sup>th</sup> verse. I want you to read what, to me, is one of the most wonderful verses on this partnership with God. You remember the setting here (begins with the 7<sup>th</sup> verse), Paul received a thorn in the flesh. We're told by inspiration that this was the weak eyes that came following the great miracle where he met the Savior on the Damascus road. He never recovered the good eyesight that he had before. That poor eyesight was a constant reminder to

him of the fact that Jesus had to strike him there on the Damascus road in order to get his attention and convert him.

Paul was one of the greatest scholars of the ages. He loved to read and study. But now he's troubled with these weak eyes, poor eyes. So he prays about it. He prays once. They don't get any better. He prays twice. They don't get any better.

"Paul, you don't have enough faith. If you had faith, those eyes would just get the way they ought to be right now."

Three times he prays, and then he gets an answer. And the answer is not better eyesight. It's what?

"...My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness..." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

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

Now, our text 2 Corinthians 12:9, will you read with me?

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:  
for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."  
2 Corinthians 12:9.

That's enough.

"...My grace is..." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

What?

"...sufficient for thee..." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

What does "sufficient" mean? Why, it means it's enough. It's all we need.

"Oh, but Lord, I want, 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'll get what I want. It's to get me on His side, so He'll get what He wants. Is that correct? Have I said it right? Are you willing?

Sometimes the very thing that leads us to seek the Lord has in it at least a few ounces of selfishness, but God's 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 the mother who was seeking that high position for her sons. But He used their request to teach a precious lesson. They must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism [a paraphrase of Matthew 20:22].

Did they learn the lesson? Thank God they finally did. And James was another one that had his head cut off, the first one after the cross. And John was the longest of the brethren to linger in toil and sacrifice the better part of a century.

Oh friends, we have a wonderful God. And the more we enter into this partnership, the less we'll 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're 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 careth for us [a paraphrase of 1 Peter 5:7].

Paul, when he became a follower of Jesus, was a rich man; had one of the highest positions in the Jewish nation. But he became a poor man on this partnership, and died in Rome as a sacrifice to his faith in Christ.

And remember, friends, at any time in those long, weary years, he could have turned his back on that walk of sacrifice, taken up a career that would have netted him position, fame, wealth, as well as convenience and comfort. But he was always looking at the cross. His partnership with Jesus was such that he'd rather be with Christ in sacrifice than feather his own nest. I want to learn that lesson. What do you say?

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

Let's turn to 1 John the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter the 14<sup>th</sup> verse. What's the fifth word in this verse? Confidence. What does that mean? What does "confidence" mean? Assurance, trust, we're sure of something.

"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.

I can have anything in the universe I ask for, provided it's what? It's His will, and I meet the conditions.

Now, that isn't big enough for some people. Do you know what some people would ask for if they thought that God would answer them? You'll pardon me for using such a crude illustration, but some people would want to know what the winning lottery number in the New York sweepstakes is. That's what they'd like to find out.

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 ease, for convenience, for comfort, for security. But God is seeking to lead us into the experience of longing for other souls to be converted and longing for our own hearts to be more and more like Him. And the more we enter into prayer from that standpoint, the more it pleases Jesus.

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

Will you read that verse with me?

“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 5:14–15.

Now, in the 16<sup>th</sup> verse, He leads us directly into the great object of prayer, of getting anything we ask. It’s praying for other souls that are weak, that need help, that have sinned and that have failed, not unto death; that’s the unpardonable sin.

In other words, we’re praying for brothers and sisters who may have slipped and fallen, or we’re praying for people out in the world that have never yet experienced salvation.

Dear ones, listen, the president of a great university put it this way: “The more a man has to live for, the less he needs to live on.”

Think it over. The converse is true, also.

What are you living *for*? Ah, I praise God for the experience that God offers every one of us of partnership with Him in the greatest work in the world.

You know what business Peter was in before he met Jesus? Fishing business. Did Jesus go into partnership with him for a few minutes one morning to show him what was possible? What happened? Why, his boat got so full it was about to sink; plenty of fish. Wouldn’t that make a wonderful fishing partnership, Jesus and Peter?

But Jesus had a purpose in it. He says, “Peter, I want you to catch men from now on.”

Did he do it? Praise God, when they pulled in the nets on the day of Pentecost, 3,000 human fish. A boat full? Oh yes, and overflowing.

Is it happening? Is it going to happen again? Will you be a part of it? Are you willing to serve the apprenticeship of following Jesus around, even if it means poverty, hardship, misunderstanding, difficulty?

Ah dear one, don't miss your destiny, don't miss your destiny. Jesus wants you to be a partner with Him. He wants to lead you through the solution of little personal problems, on into sharing with Him in the ingathering of souls.

Now, I want to read you two of what I think are some of the most wonderful sentences that inspiration has ever given us. They're in *Desire of Ages*, page 827. This is talking about all who consecrate everything to Jesus:

"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" *Desire of Ages*, page 827.

"...Every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls" *Ibid.*

Isn't that good? If I venture out on that, I *can't* fail. The One Who said:

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth..."  
Matthew 28:18.

...says:

"Go ye therefore, and...I am with you..." Matthew 18:19–20.

"Make disciples of all nations. Tell the story. Gather in the human fish. I'll be with you."

"Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence" *Desire of Ages*, page 827.

Oh, with solemn awe I look at those words and listen to them:

"Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence" *Ibid.*

What does "Omnipotence" mean? All power. Who is it that does the deeds of Omnipotence? Human beings that are weak. Human beings that long for temporal help, and God has something better, something better perhaps than taking out the thorn in the flesh.

"...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Let's start doing just what Jesus says, regardless of what happens to us. What do you say, friend? We're expendable. What happens to us is secondary. What happens to Jesus in His plan, His program, this is of infinite consequence.

And the beautiful thing about it is—the paradox of it is:

“...He that loseth his life for My sake...” Matthew 10:39.

Jesus says:

“...shall find it” Matthew 10:39.

What a fellowship with Jesus. What a joy in this partnership from day to day.

So, every morning our first thought is, “Lord, what’s the plan today?”

If we meet problems that we haven’t anticipated, we can say, “Lord, what are you and I going to do about this?”

Never say, “What am I going to do about it.”

You don’t know what you’re going to do. But oh, ask Him what He and you are going to do about it. My Lord and I are walking this road.

I’ve asked Dona to sing one of my favorite little songs. I know you’ll enjoy it right now.

[Dona sings “My Lord and I, We Hold Such Sweet Communion,” by A.O. Bell.]

Thank God it’s true, dear friends. I’ve watched Him do it over and over again. And the greatest days of the demonstration of it are just ahead.

How many of us would like to send Him the word that we want Him to be our Partner, we want to be His Partner? Would you like to do that?

Now, we’re going to spend a little time in witness, and you folks that spoke last Friday night or the week before, you listen tonight and let some who haven’t spoken for a few weeks speak tonight.

Just come right up, and we’ll have a wonderful time here in praising our Lord.

[Testimony meeting follows]

“I would be, dear Savior, wholly Thine;  
Teach me how, teach me how;  
I would do Thy will, O Lord, not mine;  
Help me, help me now.

Wholly Thine, wholly Thine,  
Wholly Thine, this is my vow;  
Wholly Thine, wholly Thine,  
Wholly Thine, O Lord, just now.”  
*Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal*, #308, first verse.

Oh, precious Lord, we thank Thee for inviting us to partnership with Thyself. Thou hast put in all Thou hast into this partnership, and just now we choose to put in all we have. We thank Thee in the name of the One Who died for us, Who lives for us, the name of Jesus, amen.

God bless you and good night.

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