

2022: A JOINT VENTURE: THE EMPOWERED PARTNERSHIP PART II

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Titus 2:11-15

- The Empowered Partnership: we are working together with Him, we are all co-laborers...fellow workers with God...this is a joint venture.

1 LABORING TOGETHER [as God's fellow workers] with Him then, we beg of you not to receive the grace of God in vain [that merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence on souls and turns them to Christ, keeping and strengthening them—do not receive it to no purpose].

2 For He says, In the time of favor (of an assured welcome) I have listened to *and* heeded your call, and I have helped you on the day of deliverance (the day of salvation). Behold, now is truly the time for a gracious welcome *and* acceptance [of you from God]; behold, now is the day of salvation! **2 Corinthians 6:1-2 AMPC**

Today we will dig deeper into what it means to be in an empowered partnership with the Lord and how to receive and operate in the grace of God. We defined grace in these ways:

- Grace – God's unmerited favor. (See Romans 5:1-2)
- Grace – God's adequacy. (See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Grace – The desire and power to do the will of God. (See Philippians 2:13)
- Jesus the source of grace and truth. (See John 1:14-19)

In order for us to live in this empowered partnership, God has caused us by His Spirit to become new creations...new creatures...that are fully reconciled to live in the 'newness' of life that He gives us.

14 For the love of Christ controls *and* urges *and* impels us, because we are of the opinion *and* conviction that [if] One died for all, then all died;

15 And He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to *and* for themselves, but to *and* for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake.

16 Consequently, from now on we estimate *and* regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint *and* as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh].

17 Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

18 But all things are from God, who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]. **2 Corinthians 5:14-21 AMPC**

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- A new being, a new creation, a new creature, a new person, in a new world.
- The new partnership...
 - Love lifts us to the correct conclusion...my life is hidden with Christ in God. (v14)
 - We are free to be His by virtue of His death and resurrection. (v14-15)
 - 'New eyes' to see a new way! (v 16-17)
 - New ministry: reconciliation. (v18)
 - The new ministry defined...because of Jesus' substitutionary death, God does not count our trespasses and sins against us. Amazing! (v19)
 - New commission: we are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God with new 'credentials'. (v20)
 - The new creation reality...by grace we have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (v21)

19 The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, *and* my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] *and* make [spiritual] progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]! For the Chief Musician; with my stringed instruments. **Habakkuk 3:19 AMPC**

Part of the purpose of the empowered partnership is to help us walk with God and make spiritual progress regardless of our circumstances.

- The same old nullifiers the enemy tries to offer.

We have been FREED!

6knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7for he who has died is freed from sin. **Romans 6:6-7 NASB**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **Galatians 2:20 NASB**

Religion/Law vs the new creation

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. **Galatians 5:6 NASB**

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. **Galatians 6:15 NASB**

The TRUE new you...not a make-over of carnality... renewed to a true knowledge.

20But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. **Ephesians 4:20-24 NASB**

20If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22(which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are of no value* against fleshly indulgence. **Colossians 2:20-23 NASB**

9Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, 10and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. **Colossians 3:9-10 NASB**

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11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. **Titus 2:11-15 NASB**

- The new creation, new partnership guidelines: or how not to nullify the grace of God. **Titus 2:11-15**
 - God's grace is here to save us from Hell, from sin, and from ourselves! (v11)
 - God's grace saves us via teaching us and instructing us.
 - He often does this by showing us the richness and value of what is godly.
 - His grace teaches us to deny worldly desires... "Love not the world". (v12)
 - One of His best teaching tools is to 'un-mask' this world system and let us see how hollow, dark, and fleeting it all is.
 - He also opens up His powerful presence to us and allows us 'to drink from the river of His delights.'
 - His grace teaches us to live sensibly. (v12) (see also II Timothy 1:7)
 - His grace teaches us to live righteously and godly in the 'now'!

[After all] the kingdom of God is not a matter of [getting the] food and drink [one likes], but instead it is righteousness (that state which makes a person acceptable to God) and [heart] peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Romans 14:17 NASB**

- His grace teaches us to put our hope in Jesus and to have eternal perspective. (v13)
- His grace reminds us that we have been redeemed from every lawless deed. (v14)
- His grace instructs us that we are a part of a people that the Lord redeemed for Himself...for His own possession. (v14)
- His grace teaches us to be energized for good deeds. (v14)