

PARTNER

MONTHLY

CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION DIGITAL MONTHLY PARTNER MAGAZINE

APRIL 2021

**NEW
PRODUCT**

Philadelphia,
New York,
New Jersey,
Virginia,
North Carolina,
Connecticut,
Delaware,
California,
Texas,
Tennessee,
Florida
Minnesota,
Maryland,
Alabama,
Washington DC,
Ohio,
Canada,
Bangladesh

FEATURED ARTICLE

REST BRINGS
RESTORATION

CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES



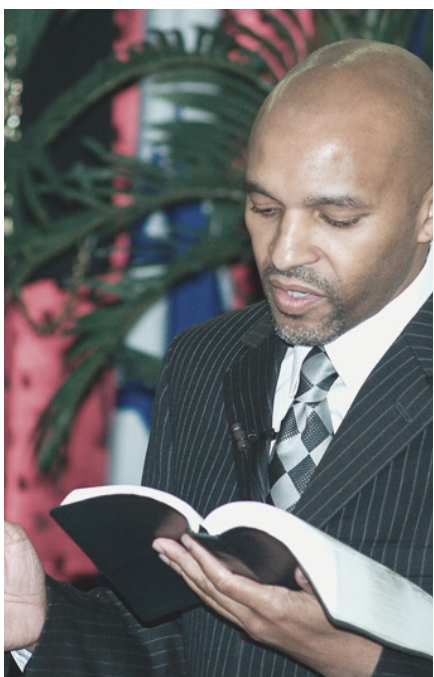
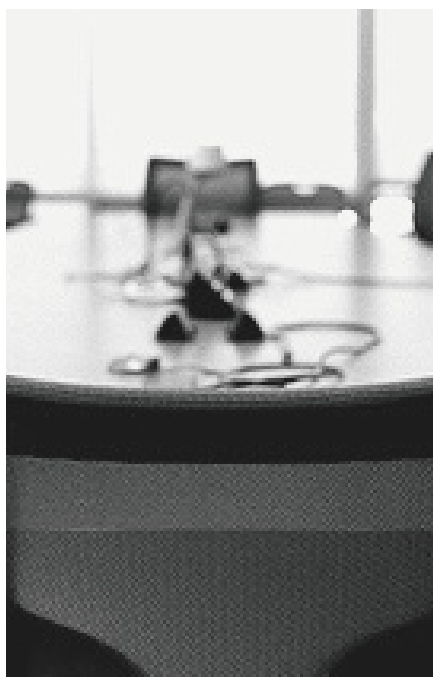
- 02 Editor's Note
- 03 Rest Brings Restoration
- 07 Can You Hear Me Now?
- 10 Thanks From Bishop Walker
- 11 Fruit of The Reborn Spirit
- 15 Calendar/Projects

The Purpose of "PARTNER MONTHLY" PUBLICATION

On May 14th, **CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES** will be celebrating twenty-seven years of ministry. The Lord has crowned **2021** as a season of **VISION FULFILLMENT, RESTORATION & OVERFLOW**. Let's place a faith demand on what God is saying and doing and gain momentum in the spirit. We will not become static but will remain dynamic with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord has lead us to develop additional materials to support our partnership community. Our objective at **CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES** is to merge ministry into the marketplace through the use of online technologies. Over the past five years, we've developed: **PARTNER PODCASTS**, and **PARTNER CELL GROUPS** and now we've added this newest concept "**PARTNER MONTHLY**".

PARTNER MONTHLY is a digital monthly partner magazine, created to bring fresh perspectives on the scripture from the founder; Derick E Wilkes and from other authors and publishers of the gospel as the Lord leads. We'll appreciate your feedback about this publication. **Thanks!**

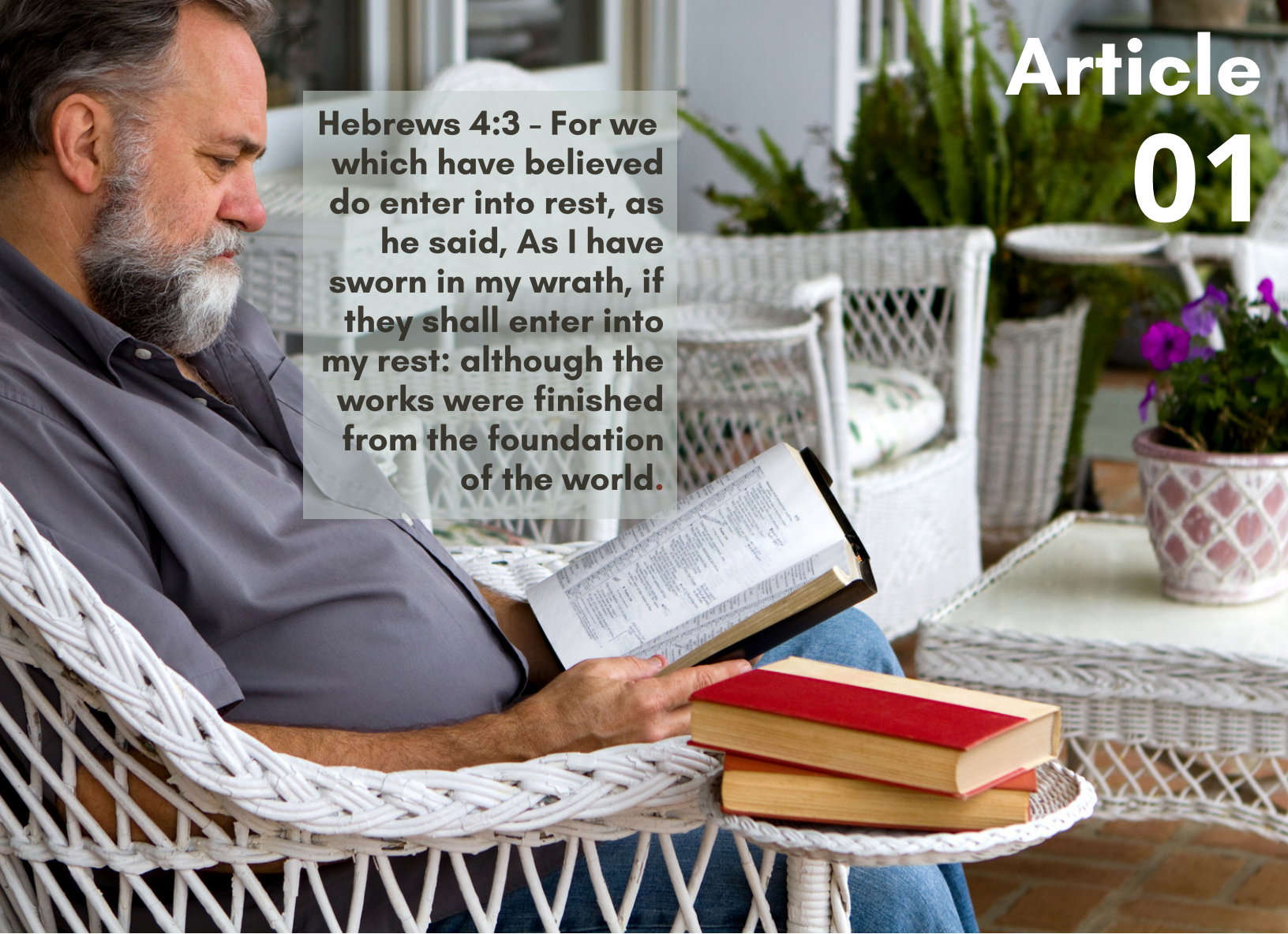


CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES
 Helping Churches, Ministries & Ministers Publish The Gospel

1-800-594-0691

Derick & Natalie Wilkes, Founders
Roderick A Kendrick, Admin. Pastor

www.congregationofchurches.org



Hebrews 4:3 - For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

REST BRINGS RESTORATION

As I was praying recently, I was stirred on the inside to begin speaking with you about **RESTORATION**; which is one of the theme words for this season.

What is RESTORATION?

A basic definition for restoration is to return something to it's former condition, owner or state.

We could **also** say that restoration is to recover or to return something to a **better** state than it was before.

That's what happened as a result of God's Plan of Redemption. In Christ we are at a greater place than that of which the first Adam fell from.

What was lost or corrupted or affected in the fall of man?

Through Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, mankind was separated from God, thus **RIGHTEOUSNESS** was lost, and the **BLESSING** which was on Adam's life also needed to be restored. God endeavored to restore that blessing to mankind throughout time through **NOAH, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH, MOSES** and others.

Righteousness, the Blessing and Spiritual Authority that was given to mankind and lost in the fall has been restored through Christ.

How does **mankind** receive this **RESTORATION** which has been made available through Christ Jesus?

Number 1. Man must receive Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and savior, at which point he enters into the **RESTORATION arena** made available through God's Plan of Redemption.

As a result of this new birth experience; all that has been given in Christ Jesus belongs to the new Christian.

However, that does not mean that all of which has been restored will be enjoyed.

WHY?

Number 2. Man must enter into the process called the renewing of the mind.

In order to enjoy what has been restored we must enter into a proper mindset.

The mindset is this; ... that God has finished His work.

Some have thought that they needed to **earn** by **work** ... what Christ has made available for free by His grace.

Check out the following two references:

Ephesians 2:8 - For by **grace** are ye **saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Vs 9 - Not of **works**, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:24 - Being **justified** (made **righteous**) freely by his **grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus:

We must embrace the mindset that WE are the righteousness of God in Christ. We must discover what belongs to us in Christ and begin to walk in it.

The **knowledge** of what belongs to us will produce **confidence** to **pursue** what belongs to us.

This brings us to the next thought.

Number 3. Man must believe.

Believing is a major key to experiencing **RESTORATION**.

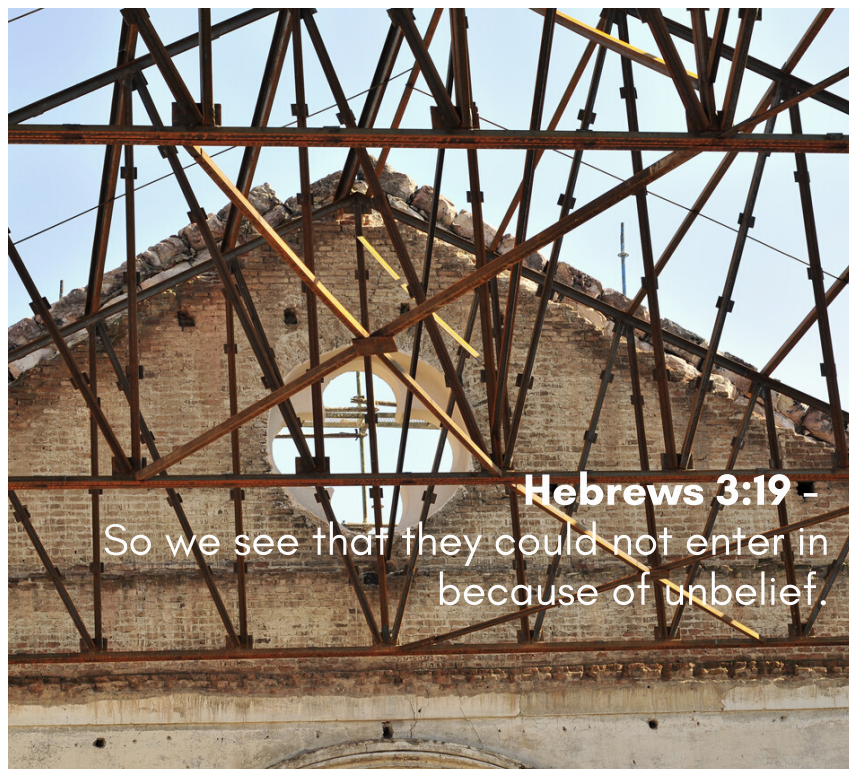
Huuh what?

Listen to this scripture reference from the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:3 - For we which have **believed** do enter into **rest**, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall **enter** into my **rest**: although the **works** were **finished** from the foundation of the world.

Some have not entered into God's REST because of unbelief.

KEY: REST BRINGS RESTORATION!



This is what I'd like to talk about; When you and I enter into God's **REST** we position ourselves for **RESTORATION** ... in manifestation.

Medical professionals, generally prescribe **rest** for their patients in order to help them get well. It has been proven that **REST** is instrumental in bringing **RESTORATION** to the body.

God also has a prescription for bringing **RESTORATION** to the body. Specifically, the Body of Christ. That prescription is **REST**.

Yet, **REST** is connected to ... through believing.

Belief is evidence of REST!

Again look at Hebrews 4:3

Hebrews 4:3 - For we which have believed do enter into **rest**, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall **enter into my rest**: although the **works** were **finished** from the foundation of the world.

The third chapter of Hebrews ends with the warning that it was unbelief that kept the people of Israel from entering into the promised land and the rest which God had promised there.

Hebrews 3:19 - So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

And what was the result of that unbelief? The promises of God did not profit them. Today, There Still Is a Resting Place. Christ accomplished everything for the **redemption** of the believer. Our labor (work) is to believe **unto** a rest ... by faith in His finished work. **Rest...** is referring to God's finished works (Hebrews 4:3-8).

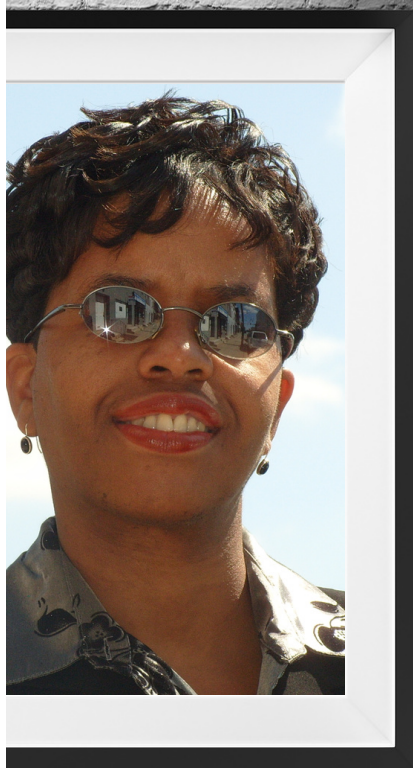
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. For six days He worked, and on the seventh day He rested (Hebrews 4:4; Genesis 2:2, 3). Rest in this context means to cease from work because everything is done. God is not resting because He's tired, but because He was finished.

Resting on the Sabbath is a way of symbolically recognizing that God is our real source, not our own work (Exodus 20:8-11; Colossians 2:16, 17). We now have in Jesus, the reality of what the Sabbath symbolizes. Through Jesus, we can have a relationship with God, and have all our needs met. The "rest" spoken of in the book of Hebrews can only be entered into by faith, as it is a spiritual rest. To truly rest, involves quieting down on the inside, and purposing to yield to the peace of God's presence. (Ps 16:11) Spiritual rest is entering into the trust, confidence and reliance on what God has already done without insecurity about the future. God is inviting us to enter into what is already finished. Labor to enter into the rest. Our labor is a labor of faith!

Derick E Wilkes

Evangelist & Pastor





HAPPY 52ND BIRTHDAY
PROPHET NATALIE
APRIL 24, 2021

Article 02

1 John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Our thought for this article is framed in the form of a question.

From the beginning of creation, God has always desired to be relational with humanity.

Yet, when God asks a question, its not because He doesn't know the answer. God's questions to us are for our benefit and not His. God's questions are to promote self evaluation and the corresponding actions of repentance, faith and obedience to what He is saying.

The question is as follows:

Can You Hear Me ... NOW?

*The question is not "**Can you hear me?**"*

This question implies that there has been a challenge with receptivity.

On one side of "**NOW**" is the past and on the other side of "**NOW**" is the future.

When we speak of "**NOW**" we are speaking of the PRESENT.

"Can You Hear Me NOW?", means that you did not hear me before, yet, something I said to you opened your ability to hear and I'm now checking for clarity from you.

Also, "Can You Hear Me NOW?" implies that hearing requires a RIGHT NOW relationship with God, in that we are hearing in the "NOW".

There are three immediate benefits to hearing God speak to you.

- Hearing enables you to be led by God's Spirit.
- Hearing produces faith.
- Hearing enables us to get insight into the future.

1. Hearing implies that God can be heard.
2. Hearing implies that God is speaking.

Check out Genesis chapter three and verses eight through ten.

Genesis 3:8-10

Vs 8 - And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

Vs 9 - And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Vs 10 - And he (Adam) said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

These verses confirm that God speaks and God can be heard. Although God has on occasions spoken to men of old in an audible voice, that's not His primary way of communicating with us.

God communicates with us through His Spirit and His written Word. Sometimes people will look for the spectacular and miss the supernatural.

God has a primary way of communicating with us and then a secondary way of communicating with us. All of which are supernatural but not always spectacular.

Understanding how God speaks will enable us to hear more accurately.

Here are a few ways that God will choose to speak at times.

- The Written Word
- The Voice of God's Spirit
- The Inner Witness
- Visions
- Dreams
- Other People (friends and family)
- Ministry Gifts
- An Inner Peace
- The Ministry of Angels

Let's look at three major factors that influence what we hear and how we hear from God

1. Relationship
2. Fellowship
3. Understanding

Let's look at each of these individually.

Listen to these words from the book of John chapter eight and verses forty-three and forty-four and then forty-seven.

John 8:43-44, 47

John 8:43 - Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Vs 44 - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Vs 47 - He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

There are people who are not able to hear God's Words from within themselves.

In contrast, there are people who are able to hear God's voice from within themselves as they are of God's family.

Check out John chapter ten and verse twenty-seven.

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

So then, the first factor which influences what we hear as Christians is the fact that we are born of God, and consequently we have **relationship**. We have God's Spirit, giving us the capacity to hear Him from **within** our inner man or spirit.

The next factor is **fellowship**. While **relationship** provides capacity, **fellowship** positions us to hear what we hear ... from the father.

We have both relationship and fellowship.

As Christians we hear from God with our **heart** and not with our **physical ears** as men hear one another. As shared earlier, even Christians struggle with hearing properly because they don't know how God communicates. This brings us to number three.

The third factor is understanding.

Our understanding will influence what we hear and how we hear from any source.

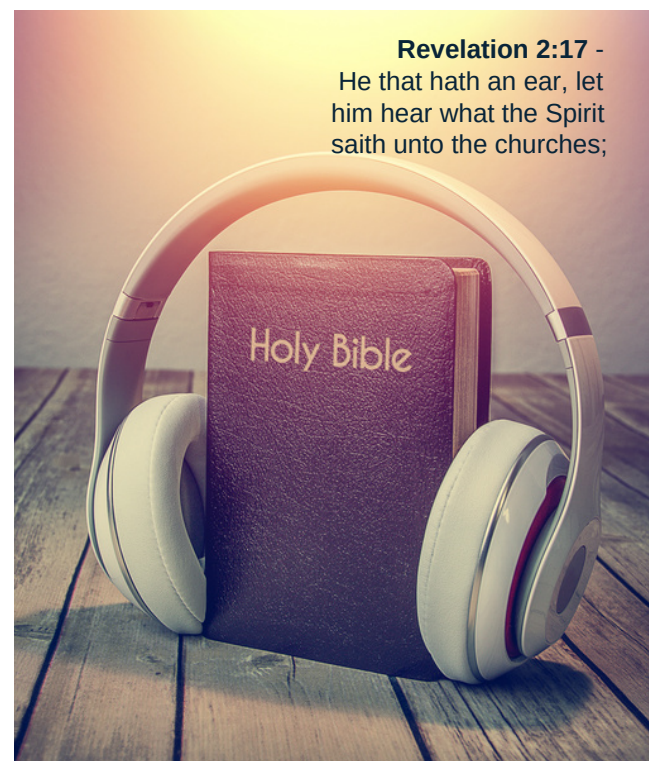
Preconceptions, thoughts and understandings will influence how we receive. Our understandings has been with us since childhood and influenced by teachers, parents, preachers, friends, the environment, the media and so on.

Many times a persons preconceptions will serve as a filter, causing them to only to hear what supports their preconceptions. In other words, some will hear what they meant by what was said and not what the speaker intended for them to hear.

I am confident that even after this brief article, your answer to the question: "CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?" ... is an emphatic YES!

Derick E Wilkes

Evangelist and Pastor
Congregation of Churches



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**CONGREGATION
OF CHURCHES**
Helping Churches, Ministries & Ministers Publish The Gospel

Annual Scholarship Award

THE FIRST RECIPIENT



The first recipient of the CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES Annual Scholarship Award, accompanied by a \$1,000 gift to students investing in theological education.



Bishop R.S. Walker, Year 2021

Congratulations from Congregation of Churches

WWW.CONGREGATIONOFCHURCHES.ORG

I was elated when Pastor Derick E. Wilkes, Natalie A. Wilkes, and The **Congregation of Churches** gave me the **\$1,000.00** Scholarship. I am a student at Regent University, where I am working on my bachelor's degree with an earned doctoral degree as a goal. I have made a sacrifice all my adult life to push my children through school while having a dream of completing my education. At the age of 58, I went back to school and I am 65% complete with my bachelor's degree.

Being the first college graduate of my seven siblings, I thought about the scholarship as a principle of first things. God has always required first things from us, according to Proverbs 3.9. The tithe is not just ten percent of one's earnings; it is the first ten percent. God requires us to give the first fruit each year, and he promised to bless the rest of which one tithes. Jesus became the firstborn among many brethren. God loves it when we participate in the principle of first things.

My being the first to receive a scholarship is your participation in a first fruit principle. I am grateful that you selected me to be the recipient of the scholarship program's first fruit. Ezekiel says, "And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house" (Ezekiel 44.30).

Therefore, I decree God's manifested blessing rest upon your house and the house of the participants in this first fruit principle.

Thank you, Pastor Derick and Prophet Natalie Wilkes, for your generosity!

Galatians - 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, longsuffering,
gentleness, goodness, faith,

Vs 23 -

meekness, temperance:
against such there is no law.



THE FRUIT OF THE REBORN SPIRIT

There are four different types of love that we should be aware of, namely; EROS, STORGE, PHILEO, and **AGAPE**

1. Eros represents sexual *love* and is where we get the word erotic. In Greek culture, this word referred to sensual, carnal impulses to satisfy or gratify the sexual desires of the flesh.

Conversely, Love is not dependent on sex and sex can happen outside of the marriage covenant without love.

People do it all the time.

2. Storge is the love that exists between parents and children or the love that exists between members of a family.

3. Phileo is brotherly love and describes the attributes of friendship, it is not representative of the highest form of love.

4. Agape is the love of God. It is this word that Paul uses in Galatians chapter five and verse twenty-two, when he writes, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love."

This is high-level love, for there is no greater or more excellent love than agape love.

The Agape kind of love is resident in us now, along with the characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22.

You have all the characteristics of God on the inside of you - in Love.

Galatians 5:22 - lists the characteristics of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit **is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Vs 23 - meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The Fruit of The Spirit **is**... LOVE!

Notice, what the Bible does **not** say!

The Bible does not say that the Fruit of the spirit **ARE**... **PLURAL**, But, that the Fruit of The spirit **IS**... **SINGULAR**.

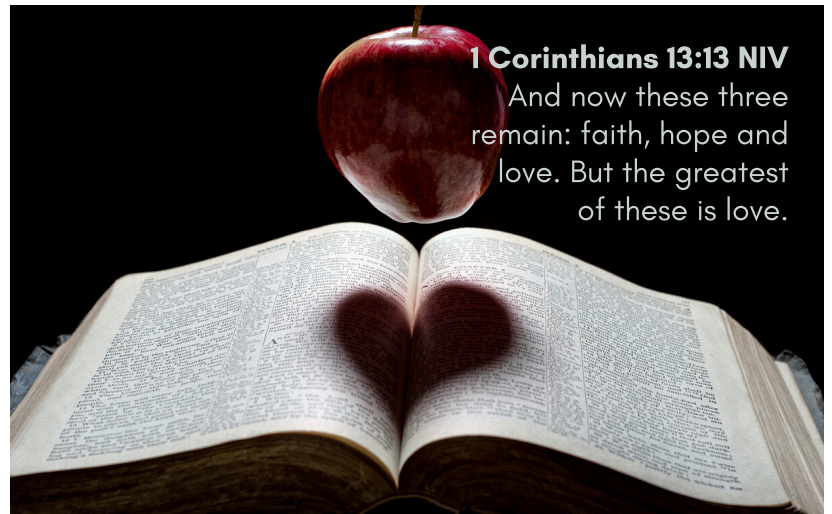
The Fruit of The Spirit **is**... LOVE!

The characteristics **of LOVE are** JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS and TEMPERANCE...

There is one Fruit, but many characteristics!

We cultivate the characteristics, as we grow in understanding and corresponding actions, then people will see manifestation of our understanding, as fruit on our branches.

Jesus said that He was/is the Vine and that we are the branches.



ALSO JOIN US LIVESTREAM



GET YOUR COPY OF 7 KEYS TO DIVINE HEALING CD HERE ... CLICK

The Fruit of the spirit is an outflow of the re-born man. This is the Fruit of the Reborn spirit and not the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit does not have to grow in love.

The fruit grows on the branches. We are the branches!

The Fruit of the flesh is an outflow of the unregenerate man or the Christian that has not had his mind renewed to the Word of God. Galatians 5:19-23

This explains why a person can be born again and yet, act like the world. You are responsible for cultivating these characteristics in your life.

One characteristic of Fruit is that it grows! Fruit grows through the nourishment provided through its connection to the vine and the cultivation of the farmer.

We grow in the characteristics of love through the practice of the characteristics of love.

The practice of these characteristics will perfect or mature you in the love of God. You will bring forth fruit in your season as you abide in the word. Psalm 1:1-3

On the day that we received Jesus as Lord and savior; God the father and God the son came to reside on the inside of us in the person of the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit came His characteristics came as well.

Listen to this verse from the book of Romans chapter five and verse five.

Romans 5:5 - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5 AMP - ... Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us ...

We should never say things like: I DONT HAVE ... love or joy, or peace or patience. Why?

You have each of these characteristics resident in you ... NOW!

Certainly, we need to understand these characteristics and engage in corresponding action to what we understand. Over time we will become more developed in our love walk.

Another thing which is worth pointing out is that we are mandated to walk in love.



Walking in God's love is a command! This command is not based on how we feel.

By faith we can walk in the love of God.

John 13:34 - A **new commandment** I give unto you, that ye love one another; **as I have loved you**, that ye also love one another.

Make Love, a commandment to yourself.

What's New About Jesus' New Commandment?

The key to the answer is found in the words of the second half of the verse: ". . . just **as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another."

The words "**as I have loved you**" contain a pattern for our love for each other, and they contain a power for our love for each other. Loving each other is not a new command per se. It was already there in the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"). What's new is that Jesus is now the pattern we live by and the power we live on.

The standard of Leviticus was one's-self whereas the standard of the new is Jesus'-love.

We now have the Love of God resident within us to enable us to love as He loved.

If you search the Gospel of John for the closest verbal parallel to the words of verse John thirteen thirty-four (John 13:34) "Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another", the closest parallel is John chapter fifteen and verse twelve. (John 15:12:)

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." In verses nine and ten Jesus describes a connection between himself and the father that gives Him the power to love.

Look three verses earlier at John 15:9-10:

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

So then, the newness of the command to love like Jesus is not only the pattern of His behavior but also His connection to the power, which was His father.

The implication is this; If we are to walk out the love of Jesus' command with others, then we'll need to follow His example in behavior and the example He gave us in How He stayed in communion with the father.

We are to stay united with Jesus in the same way He stayed united to the father, and then the ability to walk out His example to us will be present.

That's all for now!

Derick E Wilkes

Evangelist and Pastor

Congregation of Churches



2021 CALENDAR

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED SHOULD DATES CHANGE FOR EVENTS

**CONGREGATION
OF CHURCHES**
Helping Churches, Ministries & Ministers Publish The Gospel

UPCOMING EVENTS



EACH WED.

BIBLE STUDY 7PM
267-490-4970



EACH SUN.

WORSHIP SERVICES 11AM
267-490-4970



APRIL 24TH

NATALIE'S BIRTHDAY



MAY 14TH

27TH ANNIVERSARY



MAY 30

TFIP CONFERENCE
SEE AD NEXT PAGE



AUGUST 6TH

PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY



**FEBRUARY
EDITION**



**MARCH
EDITION**

PRESENTS

- WORSHIP
- THE PREACHED WORD
- FAITH WORKSHOP

Total Faith Immersion Partnership
CONFERENCE

THE SPECIAL GUEST IS YOU

DERICK WILKES
SPEAKER AND HOST

SERVICE STARTS AT 11AM

WINDSOR SUITES

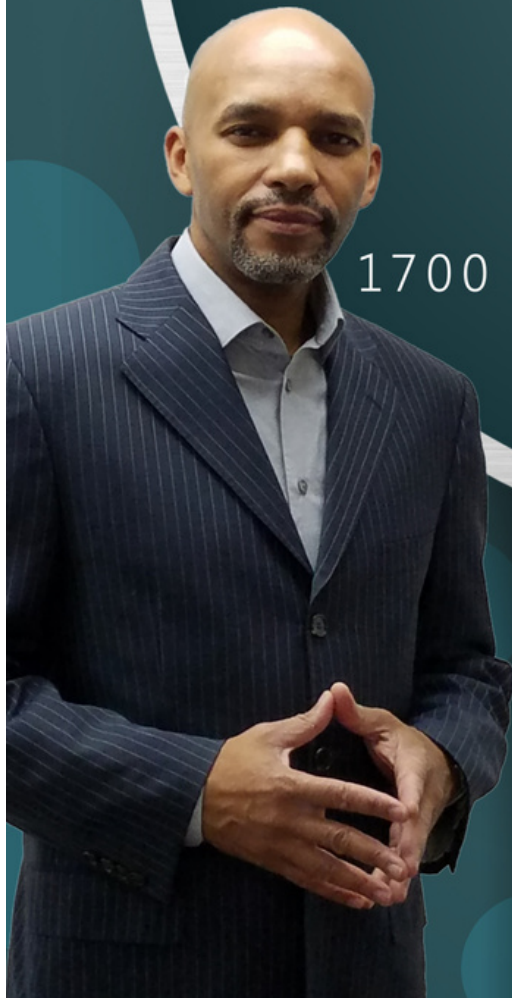
1700 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

* FREE REGISTRATION

* FREE LUNCH

ONE DAY ONLY
SUNDAY MAY 30

Registration [CLICK Here](#)



Want to

GET PARTNERED UP!

As a registered partner with The Congregation of Churches, you are helping us to publish the gospel worldwide. We are able to accomplish worldwide evangelism through the use of ever advancing online technologies as well as printed materials. Your partnership connects you and "COC" together in the grace of God whereby we mutually share in the fulfillment of God's assignment for us as we've become divinely connected.

Partner Publication, Partner Podcasts, Cell Group Ministry Partnerships, Occasional Gifts and More ...

[Partner Form - CLICK HERE!](#)



WWW.CONGREGATIONOFCHURCHES.ORG