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CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION DIGITAL MONTHLY PARTNER MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022

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Special Article
by Bishop R.S. Walker
Vision Player or Vision Pretender

FEATURED ARTICLE

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT
THE GRACE**

CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES

The Purpose of "PARTNER MONTHLY" PUBLICATION

The Lord has crowned **2022** as the season of the **DOUBLE**. Let's get ready to place a faith demand on what God is saying and doing and gain momentum in the spirit.

2022 will also be known as the Year of **God's Greater Witness**. Let's stay expectant to receive all of what God's goodness is bringing in the months to come.

The Lord has lead us to develop additional materials to support our partnership community.

Our objective at **CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES** is to help churches, ministries and ministers publish the gospel.

Over the past twelve years, we've developed: **PARTNER PODCASTS**, and **PARTNER CELL GROUPS**, **Christian Inspiration Publications**, **Online Healing Lessons** and our "**PARTNER MONTHLY DIGITAL MAGAZINE**".

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!

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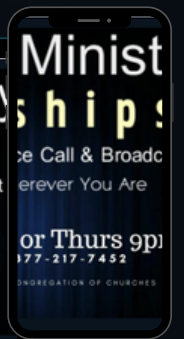


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REDEEMED AND RIGHTEOUS

Redemption is to regain possession of something in exchange for payment, or the clearing of a debt.

Christian redemption involves rescuing and recovering man from the destruction of sin, death and eternal judgment through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The penalty for Adam's disobedience was death and Jesus paid our debt of death with His life, in the stead of ours. The foundation of redemption is the grace of God, because it was by God's grace or gratuitous nature that He set the plan of redemption in place.

The ultimate objective of God's plan of redemption was to restore righteousness and its corresponding blessing to mankind. (Gal. 3:8,11)

Listen to the following verse:

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

This verse shows the connection between redemption and righteousness.

Also listen to the following verse:

Ephesians 1:7 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Our righteousness by faith enables us to access the grace of redemption.

Before, God ever uttered: "let us make man in our image and after our likeness" He knew in, His omniscience that man, would disobey Him, and had a plan to redeem mankind through His son Jesus, who would come in the form of flesh, yet, having God's blood.

How would that be possible?

It would be possible through what is known as an incarnation, which is the union of humanity with divinity in Jesus. After the fall of man, God prophesied that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of Satan. That very seed, is the same seed that impregnated Mary, after she said "so be it unto me according to your word."

But wait! The woman doesn't have any seed to offer to any child. The seed comes from the male and not the female.

So then, where would the seed come from, of which God is speaking about? It would come from God himself.

Listen to the following words;

1 Peter 1:23 AMPC - You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.

Did you know that you were born of your father?

This is actually good news. The blood running through your veins comes from your father and not your mother. The seed of the man is what introduces the presence of life and blood into the embryo or we could say the womb of the woman. This is good news! Why is it good news? If Jesus' earthly parents; Joseph and Mary had known each other sexually, then Jesus would have been just as spiritually dead as we were in Adam, as he would have had that same polluted blood.

Why? The seed of the male offers the blood to the child, and not the female. Therefore, Jesus did not have Mary's blood.

Jesus had His father's blood. I am not speaking of Joseph, as again, Joseph and Mary never got together. Jesus had God's blood.

Jesus had God's blood and man's flesh. Jesus was the son of God and the son of man. Jesus had man's authority and God's anointing.

I have a question for you; "who's blood is flowing through your life now"? If we were speaking of natural birth, you were born of your natural father. Yet, when speaking of spiritual birth, you are born again of the same incorruptible seed that impregnated Mary.

When you received Jesus as Lord and savior by faith; you were made righteous and entered into the life which Jesus paid for you to have with His blood.

Say the following words with me: I am the redeemed.
Psalm 107:2

I've been redeemed by the blood of the lamb. Hebrews 9:12

I've been made righteous by faith in the blood of Jesus.
Ephesians 1:7

When the first Adam sinned, he died spiritually, and was separated from the life of God. Adam was no longer righteous.

The blessing of God, which was upon his life was to be propagated throughout the entire earth.

Adam was to live under the influence of the blessing throughout his life and not the curse which he opened the door to.

Adam opened the door to sin, sickness, demons, fear, poverty, unbelief and more. The main part of the curse he opened the door to was spiritual death, sickness and poverty. However, through the plan of redemption, the last Adam (Jesus) made available the opportunity to be restored to righteousness and the corresponding blessing.

Let's close with the book of Galatians chapter three and verses thirteen and fourteen:

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: Vs 14 - That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The plan of redemption through Christ has restored us to a place of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God did His part, our part is to receive what He did.

Listen to the following verse;

Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Vs 10 - For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We through faith are made right with God because of God's plan of redemption.

Derick E. Wilkes

Congregation of Churches

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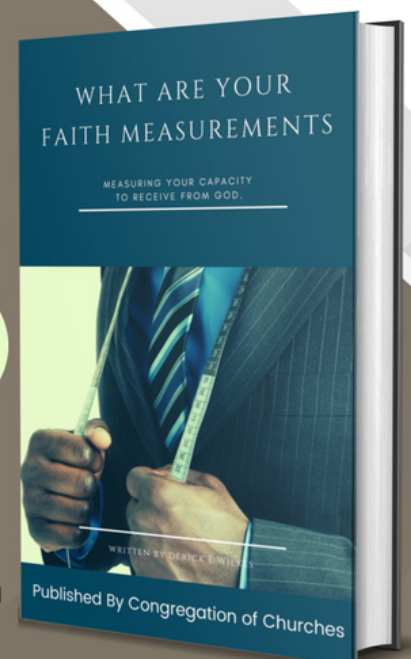
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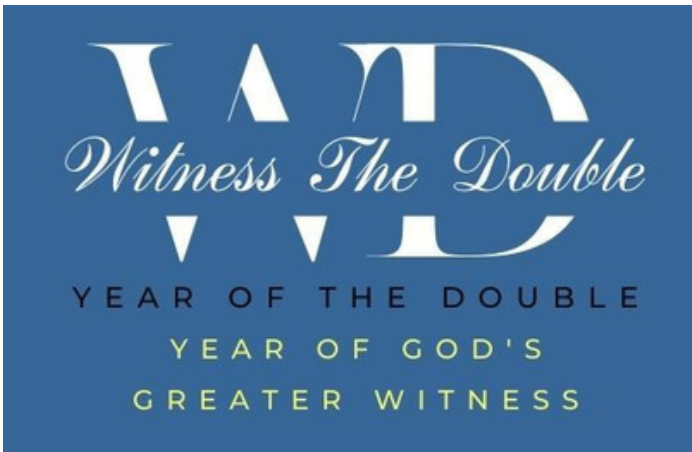


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DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE GRACE

We have often heard that the Grace of God is the favor of God. That's true!

Yet, grace and favor, individually, have distinct characteristics.

Grace is God's divine influence!

Grace God is Supernatural favor.

Grace is a manifestation of God's Mercy. Hebrews 4:16

Grace also refers to an office or function.

Grace is the empowering presence of God, enabling you to be who He created you to be, and to do what He has called you to do.

Let's look at the distinction associated with Favor.

Favor(ed) is to receive preferential treatment

Favor(ed) is to be accepted

Favor(ed) is to be approved

Favor is God's "I'm For You" attitude.

Favor is a friendly disposition toward you, from which kind acts proceed.

Listen, to how the Apostle Paul refers to "grace" from the book of Romans chapter twelve and verses three through six.

Romans 12:3(a) - For I say, ...through the grace ... given unto me, ...

Let's stop there; listen to what Paul said:

He's, speaking of the grace given unto him to function as an Apostle.

Before we continue reading Romans chapter twelve, let's read Romans chapter one and verse five.

Romans 1:5 - By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Paul is saying that he had been graced or given the ability to function as an Apostle.

Now, Romans chapter twelve and verses three through six will become clearer to us.

Listen to Romans chapter twelve and verses three through six.

Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Vs 4 - For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

In verse four, Paul was saying that we'd not all been given the "SAME" office pre-supposing that we all ... had an OFFICE, but not the same OFFICE.

Listen to verses five and six.

Vs 5 - So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Vs 6 - Having then gifts ...differing ...according to the grace ...that is given to us, ...whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Each of us, have been given faith and grace to function according to God's purpose.

Listen to these words from the book of Ephesians chapter four and verse seven concerning, Jesus' gratuitous nature, in providing graces and gifts to men.

Ephesians 4:7 - But unto every one of us is given grace ... according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

It's clear that each of us has been graced to function according to purpose.

Now, what will we do about it, from the standpoint of releasing our faith for the development of the grace or graces?

Paul continually acknowledged the grace of God that was on his life.

Listen to what he said in first Corinthians chapter fifteen and verse ten.

1 Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Paul acknowledged that it was by the grace of God, that he was who he was in the Kingdom. He did not receive the grace of God in vain or as if it was void of ability.

God by His grace, before the foundation of the world, made provision for everything that we could ever need, Yet it's by faith that we are able to access that grace and stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Your revelation of God's grace on your own life will enable you to cooperate with that grace in a way that blesses others looking to connect with you as a partaker.

It's one thing ... for others ... to perceive the grace of God on your life and quite another ... for you ... to perceive the grace of God on your own life.

When both you and others are aware of what God is doing through the grace of God, the release of that grace ... will be greater.

Look with me again to the book of Romans chapter twelve and verse three for a few moments.

Romans 12:3 – For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Paul prefixes His remarks concerning “the measure of faith” with the statement “I say through the grace ... given unto me”

It appears to me, that Paul is using himself as an example of humility, when he makes the statement “I say through the grace ... given unto me”.

He is giving credit to God's grace for the apostolic ministry with which he is engaged; he is not taking any credit for it.

Paul goes on to encourage his audience to do the same thing in saying; that we should ... not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think; but to think soberly,

Then, he connects the following thought; “according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

I hear the Lord saying within these verses, that in order to enjoy the grace of God, we must maintain an attitude of humility.

This correlates with something Paul says in the book of Ephesians chapter two and verses eight and nine.

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.

Everything that we are able to do is by the grace of God, even the faith that we are to live by, is a manifestation of God's grace.

Faith requires humility, and an appreciation for the grace of God.

Don't Forget About The Grace!

Grace is necessary for your success!

Derick E. Wilkes

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VISION

ARE YOU A VISION PLAYER OR VISION PRETENDER?

BY BISHOP R.S. WALKER



There are players and pretenders in every situation, event, or vision in life; when God gives you an idea, dream, or aspiration, you need vision players to make it work. Regardless of the type of organism/organization you are leading, you need to know who your vision players are and the vision pretenders. You cannot build or accomplish any goals with pretender because you will find yourself working alone. However, pretenders can become players.

God's Vision to Moses – Numbers 13. 1-3

God gave the land of Canaan to the Israelites, Moses being the visionary needed to accomplish God's objective. Moses' means of achieving God's vision was to use the leaders God gave him.

Some of the things that presents a challenge to accomplishing any vision are:

- a. Leaders fail to understand the vision.
- b. Leaders refuse to stay with God's plan, or
- c. The vision is communicated poorly or not at all.

John Maxwell said in one of his messages, "one is too small of a number to produce greatness," and I would say, "one is too small of a number to fulfill vision".

One cannot fulfill vision alone!

Moses sends out 12 leaders to spy out the land of Canaan. Only two comes back with a vision of possessing the land: Caleb and Joshua. However, all 12 saw the same land, but they saw it through different hearts. Moses gave them clear instructions, and they understood what God said.

1. He was specific in his people-choice “Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes” (13.2)
-



1. He detailed what they should investigate “Go up this way to the Negev, then go up into the hill country”(13.17).
 - a. (Vs 18) See what the land is like, and
 - b. (Vs 19) whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.
 - c. (Vs 19) Is the land they live in good or bad?
 - d. (Vs 19) Are the cities they live in encampments or fortifications?
 - e. (Vs 20) Is the land fertile or unproductive?
 - f. (Vs 20) Are there trees in it or not?
 - g. (Vs 20) Be courageous. Bring back some fruit from the land.”

Out of everything Moses asked, none of it included considering not possessing the land. God already settled the question of possession of Canaan. As a leader, they were to:

- a. Investigate
- b. bring back a report and
- c. bring back evidence of its fruit.

Observation of the Report

When God gives us a vision, it is imperative that we walk by God’s idea for the vision and not walk by our limitations.

Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night.

Numbers 14:2 - All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole community told them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness! Vs 3 - Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and little children will become plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" Vs 4 -So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and go back to Egypt."



Let's take a minute to think about the difference between the Vision Players and Vision Pretenders. Vision-players have a servant's mindset, and Vision-pretenders have a selfish attitude. Most of what pretenders do is look out for themselves and, they act the part, while vision-players carry out the work of ministry or finance the vision. There are some that cannot physically put in work, like investors in a business; they invest financially, and that is their part.

Pretenders can do three things to the vision:

- a. They can slow a vision down, (Joshua and Caleb wanted to advance the vision) "Let's go take the land" they said. Getting things done advances the vision.
- b. They can still momentum, and (when excitement is there, pretenders comes with doom and gloom, "we are not able" "we can't" "we are not strong enough" "not smart enough" "you are too weak")
- c. They can damage relationships. (In the vision we build up people, they tare them down with gossip, doubt, unbelief),

Think back on what the 10 spies did, what type of a report did they bring? What were the effects of their report? They were leaders, and leaders should always have a word in their mouths that advances the vision. Our vision will involve culture different different than ours. Do you know how to treat them when they are present.

Sometimes to advance a vision, we get people to do assignments or lead teams, not realizing they are pretenders not players. One could be hired to do a job and be an active vision-player; it is not a membership thing it is a matter of the heart. Vision-Players get actively involved with the assignment at hand by “building and developing people through discipleship”.

—>Some Characteristic of Players and Pretenders

There are some people that do well in talking and acting, but when it is time to produce, they are normally not on time, non-producers, inconsistent, and not dependable: they are vision-pretenders. The bottom line is this, **First:** A vision player has a servant’s mindset, but a vision-pretender has a selfish mindset.

How can you determine if you have a servant’s mindset, the answer is, “how you act when you are treated like a servant” (John Maxwell). Do you become unglued when you are treated like a servant? If you answer yes; you do not have a servant’s mindset and are not a vision-player.

Second: The difference between a vision-player and a vision-pretender is, a player is mission conscious, the pretender is position conscious.

Players will give up a position to accomplish a mission, but pretenders will give up a mission for a position.

Pretenders can become players, but there are some things they have to change. Pretenders have to shift from not wanting to others succeed, to being passionate about developing others.

Bishop R.S. Walker



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Consider An Offering

Mark 4:26 – And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; **Vs 27**– And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

When speaking of seed where the kingdom of God is concerned; Jesus said that the seed is the Word of God.

Luke 8:11 – Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

When we speak of sowing seed, and when the bible speaks of sowing seed, specifically in the book of Mark chapter four where it deals with the parable of the sower and the soils, Jesus refers to the seed as the Word of God being sown into the hearts of men.

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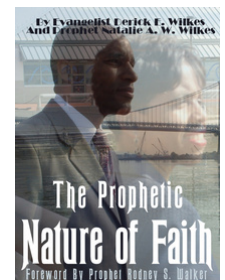
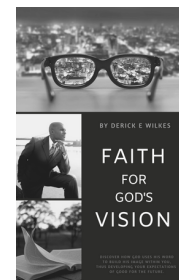
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