

# PARTNER

## MONTHLY

CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION DIGITAL MONTHLY PARTNER MAGAZINE

MAY 2021

**NEW  
PRODUCT**

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FEATURED ARTICLE

HOW DO YOU MEASURE  
ABUNDANCE?

CONGREGATION OF CHURCHES



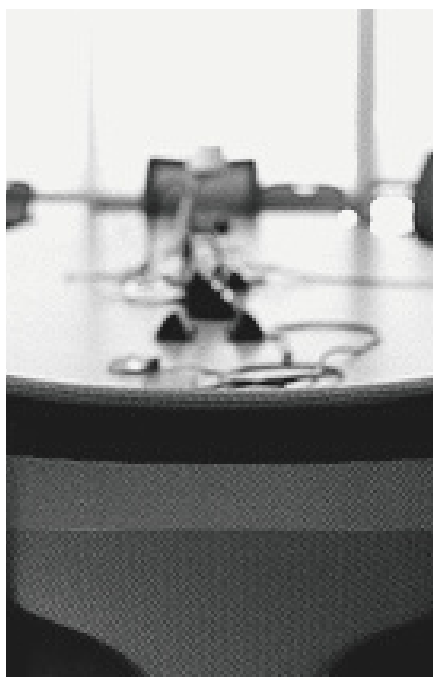
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**The Purpose of "PARTNER MONTHLY" PUBLICATION**

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!**



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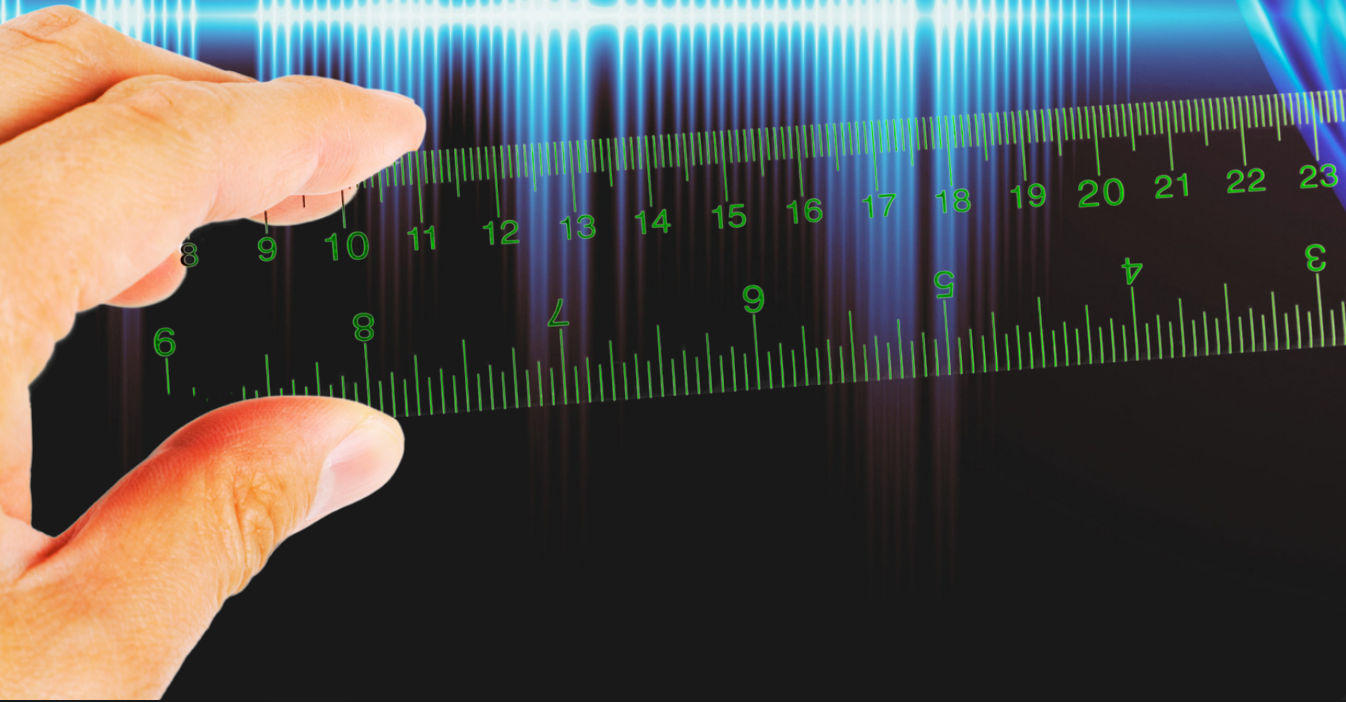
**Derick & Natalie Wilkes, Founders**  
**Roderick A Kendrick, Admin. Pastor**

*www.congregationofchurches.org*

# Article 01

## Matthew 13:12

For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more **abundance**: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.



## HOW DO WE MEASURE ABUNDANCE?

Many people measure abundance by the things they possess. However, according to Jesus **abundance begin** with hearing and understanding.

In Jesus' teaching on the Parable of the Sower from Mark's account, He said the following words taken from ... Mark chapter four and verse twenty-four. Amplified Classic Edition

**Mark 4:24 AMPC** - And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you—and **more** besides will be given to you who hear.

There is a stewardship to be considered when speaking of hearing.

We must become faithful stewards over what we hear.

Our hearing will lead us into understanding and our understanding and corresponding actions will lead us into fruitfulness 30, 60 and 100 fold.

Proper understanding will lead us into the manifestation of fruitful seasons.

This abundance I am speaking of initially is in the area of spiritual understanding.

That may not sound all that exciting, however I assure you that this is the best news that any of us could benefit from receiving.

### **Hearing is important to abundance!**

*In my mind's eye, I can see our heart(s) as a hearing-container, and our goal is to get our hearing full.*

*Our level of hunger, attentiveness and willingness to **obey** the word we hear ... becomes the measuring-cup we use to determine the value of God's word and consequently what comes back to us.*

*Natural hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. If you are not hearing - impaired, hearing simply happens.*

*Yet, listening, however, is something you consciously choose to do.*

*Listening requires concentration and action.*

*We measure everything we hear.*

*However, it's possible to hear without understanding the words being spoken.*

*For example, this happens when we hear a foreign language, or when we hear unfamiliar topics being discussed.*

Jesus offers a simple meaning to Mark 4:24 ... and that is ... whatever value ... you assign to something, ... is the value you will receive from it.

Attentive hearing is the measure we use to determine the value of Jesus' message.

The more attention we give to a message, the more value we are assessing to what we are hearing which will give us a greater ability to hear properly.

The reciprocal is just as true. The less we listen to or pay attention to a message, ... the less we believe it is worth hearing and will lose whatever it is we thought we heard.

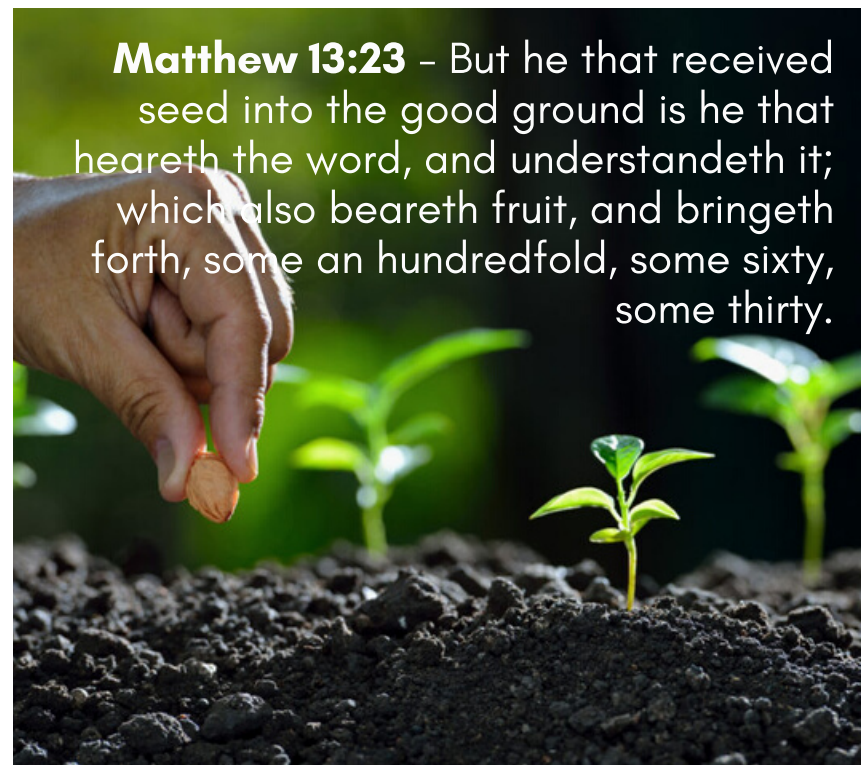
Hearing also expands your capacity to believe, which is important to receiving.

So then, the **abundance** we receive in **manifestation** is connected to our **hearing** and **believing**.

Jesus makes this clear in Matthew's account of the Parable of Sower.

In Matthew thirteen, Jesus speaking to a multitude of people by the seashore, presented this parable, and then he released an invitation that also served as an empowerment to receive His Words ... by saying the following:

**Continues next page**



**Matthew 13:23** – But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Listen to Matthew chapter thirteen and verse nine.

**Matthew 13:9** – Who hath ears to hear, Let him hear.

Certainly, .... no one was born again at this time, .....nor could they be, ..... as Jesus had not yet been to the cross.

Yet, people still could choose to attend to the word or close their eyes and ears to the word.

Again, Jesus said: Who hath ears to hear, Let him hear.

Now, listen to what the disciples asked in verse ten.

**Matthew 13:10** – And the disciples came, and said unto Him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Clearly ... making a distinction between themselves and the others.

What is a parable? ... A parable represents ... parallel truths ... placed beside one another, ....that have a twofold purpose of revealing and concealing.

Revealing to those that have ears to hear and concealing to those ...who don't.

Listen again to what they asked: Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Verse eleven:

**Matthew 13:11** – He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Jesus goes on to explain, in verse twelve, ..... why it was not given to them..... to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

Verse twelve:

**Matthew 13:12** – For whosoever hath,

Let's stop there!

**Whosoever Hath What?** Ears to hear!

That's what He stated .....earlier.



Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Let's continue reading:

**Matthew 13:12** - For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more **abundance**: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

The one who has ears to hear, shall be given, and will have more in **abundance**.

He that hath ears to hear ... shall be given what, .... and what will he have in **abundance**?

We'll need to fast forward to get the answer and then we'll come back, ... and plug it in.

Let's jump to Matthew chapter thirteen and verse twenty three.

**Matthew 13:23** - But he that received seed into the good ground is he that **heareth** the word, and **understandeth** it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

You'll notice that there is a hearer of the seed of the word that receives it, understands it, brings forth fruit, some hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

Now, listen to verse nineteen

**Matthew 13:19** - When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and **understandeth** it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

So then, of the four types of hearers or grounds, wayside, stony, thorny and then the good ground, ..... It was only the good ground that heard with understanding and was able to bring forth fruit on various levels.

The good ground had ears to hear with understanding.

Listen to verse twelve again,

**Matthew 13:12** - For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.



Concludes next page

Jesus says for the following reason, I speak to them in parables.

Listen to verse thirteen.

**Matthew 13:13** - Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Jesus goes on to explain that, ..... Isaiah prophesied about this type of people.

**Vs 14** - And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By **hearing** ye shall hear, and shall not **understand**; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

I can hear someone asking, .... why is it, .... that some shall hear and not understand and see and not perceive?

Verse fifteen, concludes the thought.

**Vs 15** - For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

So then, the condition of the heart, can keep one from being able to hear and see or perceive. We must have ears to hear, if we are to get understanding.

The heart that desires understanding will receive **more** ..... and contrariwise, the heart that is calloused to the truth will lose even what they do have.

The measure of understanding and corresponding fruitfulness we experience is influenced by the level of attentiveness ... we give to the Word.

For you and I abundant living begins on the inside and flows outward. When we think about abundance, we shouldn't think of it as beginning on the outside with material resources but from the inside.

### **Resources are a fruit, and not a root of abundance.**

All of the issues of life ... are an overflow of the heart.

Abundance or Overflow begins with the deposit we allow into our hearts through what we meditate or hear.

Listen to Luke 6:45

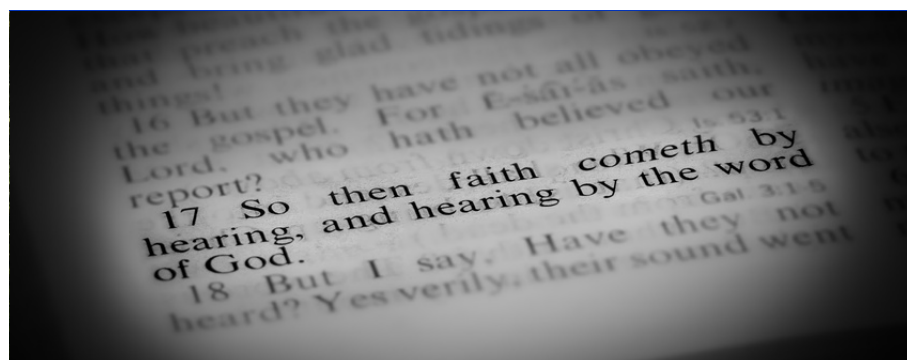
**Luke 6:45** - A good man out of the good treasure (or deposit) of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure (or deposit) of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

There is so much more that could be said on this subject. Yet, for now remember this: As you continue to hear God's Word on any topic, an understanding will come, the capacity to believe will come and then as you act on the word in faith, you will **begin** to **manifest** abundance even in this physical realm.

**How should we measure abundance?** We should begin measuring abundance by what we hear of God's Word.

Derick E Wilkes

### **Congregation of Churches**





**May 14th 2021**

# *Celebrating 27 Years*

Derick & Natalie



God did not create us  
to be constricted,  
restricted or small on  
the inside.

# MEASURING

## CAPACITY TO RECEIVE FROM GOD

*Ephesians 3:20 KJV - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us ...*

That scripture verse to some ... can appear to be ... so BIG.

God can do exceeding abundantly ... **above**

God can do exceeding abundantly above ... **all**

God can do exceeding abundantly above all ... **that we ask or think,**

*Can you CURRENTLY fit that MEASURE of God's ability within your IMAGINATION?*

*Can you CURRENTLY BELIEVE God for that MEASURE of His ability?*

*Can you BELIEVE God for MORE ... of His ABILITY operating in and through your life?*

Certainly from heaven's side, God created us with the capacity to receive and believe and to envision great things. Yet, some, have allowed their vision, (what they can see) to become small and constricted.

God did not create us to be constricted, restricted or small on the inside.

God did not create us to be small thinkers.  
God did not create us to believe small.

Your capacity will determine what you can receive from God

Personal capacity is about your wideness on the inside.

Capacity is the maximum amount of something that can be received or contained.

Listen to these words from the book of Philippians chapter four and verse nineteen.

**Philippians 4:19** - But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

When we think of this verse, many times we think of it from the perspective of getting our personal needs met.

I can see us moving from ... treating Philippians chapter four and verse nineteen ... as a personal provision scripture and begin to allow God's vision to become ours.

God's vision many times will encompass more than just the people of our own home and ministry.

As I've been thinking about capacity, the following words were quickened to me by the Lord:

Each of these words has some relationship to capacity.

Those words are:

- \* MEASURE
- \* FILL
- \* FULLNESS (FULNESS)
- \* ABUNDANCE
- \* OVERFLOW
- \* CAPACITY
- \* RESERVES
- \* SUPPLY
- \* DIMENSIONS

When we speak of receiving from God, our capacity is what influences His flow into our lives.

Let's take some time to define our key word ... "**measure**".

The Greek word for "**measure**" is "**metron**".

New Testament Greek Lexicon defines "**metron**" as, An instrument for measuring. It's further defined as a vessel for receiving and determining the quantity of things, whether dry or liquid, a measuring rod proverbially, the rule or standard of judgment.

A **metron** isn't a unit of measurement **but** instead it's the tool that is used to determine the measurement.

In other words, it helps us determine the standard.

So then, a spoon, or shovel or dump truck can be a standard used to measure.

When we communicate in terms of measurements: some expressions include but are not limited to; height, weight, size, duration, quality, or quantity.

**Continues next page**

Quantitative measurements use numbers and units; whereas something like **faith** isn't **measured** in units.

We sometimes measure qualitatively and we use terms such as: all, some, every, and most. Other terms include higher, wider, larger and better.

Now, let's do some measuring, where our personal capacity is concerned.

Our expansion as spiritual minded beings shouldn't begin on the outside but from the inside. We are inside-out Christians and not ... outside-in Christians.

Our expansion on the inside will influence what we ask for. Our expansion on the inside will influence what we say to the mountainous situations of life we might encounter.

There are several keys to expanding your capacity to receive from God. Each of the following keys will enable you to measure your own capacity level.

- Love
- Humility
- Expectation
- Hearing
- Believing
- Saying
- Faith
- Supply of The Spirit
- Vision
- Prayer
- Giving

One of the ways of expanding your heart capacity as you can see from our list is **giving**.

The same opening from which you give from is the same opening in which you receive as well.

To help illustrate this point; listen to the following story of a widow woman and a pot of oil.

Let look at this reference from the book of second Kings chapter four. This Widow woman's husband had died, and she was left in debt, and the creditors had come to take her sons as slaves, to compensate for the debt.

Elisha, the man of God, asked her, ..... about what she had in the house, that could be used to resolve the debt. She said, that she had nothing, but a pot of oil. This was all that she had in the house. Here, is where we pick up the story.

**2 Kings 4:3** - Then he (ELISHA) said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

The man of God instructed her ... to borrow not a few. That meant that she was to get an abundance of vessels.

**Vs 4** - And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

**Vs 5** - So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

**Concludes next page**



**Vs 6** - And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

Notice, how the provision of oil stopped at the point of her capacity ... to contain the supply.

The vessels that she borrowed were a point of contact for the oil supply.

If she had more vessels ... she could've contained more...and consequently have had more to bless others.

Her limitation ... limited the blessing flow.

That's one reason we must expand our capacity to receive.

The act of faith behind the acquisition of vessels is what put the demand on the supply of oil. In your life and in my life, our hearts are symbolic of the vessels that she borrowed.

As we keep our hearts full of the Word of God, .....faith will be present to receive of God's flow. Believing God with the heart is what determines our capacity to receive from Him.

Our belief places a demand on God's ability!

God did not determine the amount of oil that this woman received. What determined the amount of oil that she received was the capacity that she had .... to contain the oil.

When she ran out of room for the oil, then the oil stopped. She only received ..... what she was prepared to contain.

What can your heart cover of God's supply?

Let's begin to expand our capacity to receive from God.

Derick E Wilkes

**Congregation of Churches**



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# SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

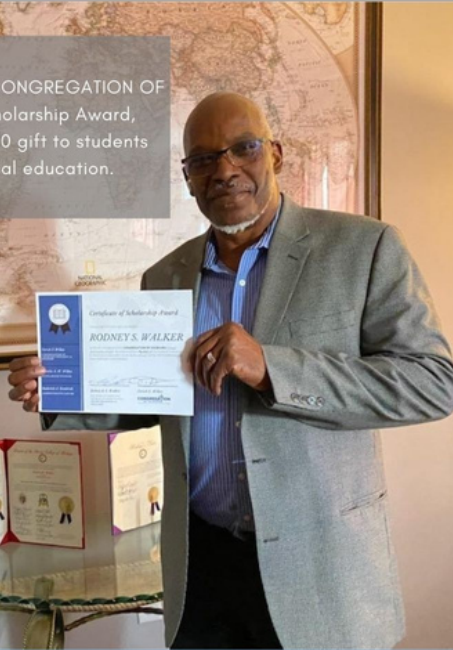
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**Bishop R.S. Walker, Year 2021**

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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.

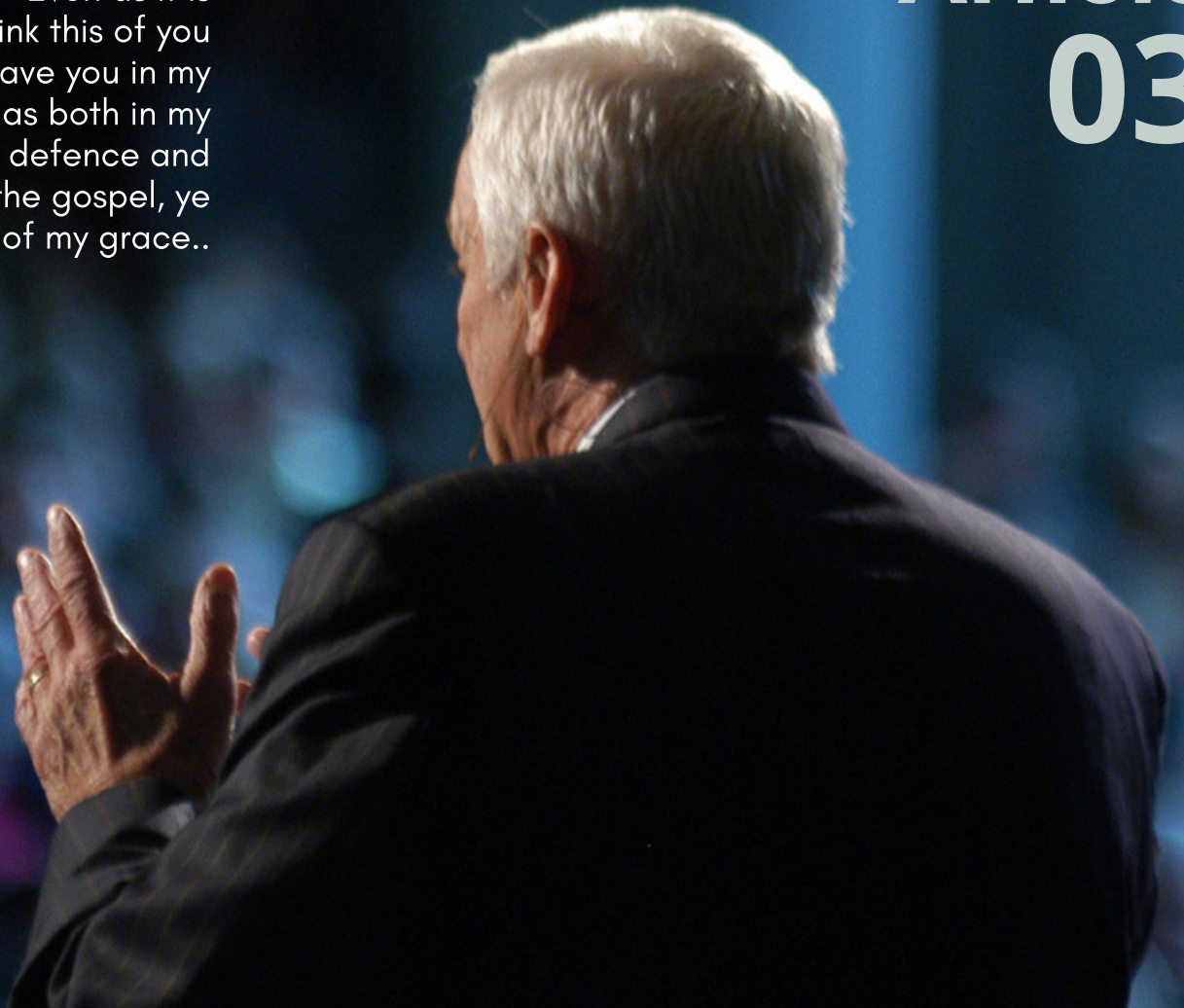
Being the first college graduate of my seven siblings, I thought about the scholarship as a principle of first things. God has always required first things from us, according to Proverbs 3.9. The tithe is not just ten percent of one's earnings; it is the first ten percent. God requires us to give the 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!

**Philippians 1:7** - Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace..



## BECOMING **PARTAKERS** OF GOD'S GRACE

The Apostle Paul in writing to His partners at Philippi, revealed that God would supply for the needs of his partners as they were partakers of his work in ministry. The same grace that was available to Paul in the field as an Apostle would also be available to his partners although they were not engaged in ministry to the same degree.

Listen to Philippians 4:19

**Philippians 4:19** - But **my** God shall supply all **your** need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Paul was speaking to his partners.

Listen to Philippians 4:15

**Philippians 4:15** - Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Interestingly; Paul says that **HIS** God would supply **THEIR** need.

Why would he say it that way? Did he and his partners serve different God's? No, of course not!

He was simply sharing with them that THEY would be PARTAKERS of HIS grace. They would know the same benefit and reward he knew as an Apostle working directly in the field.

It, would be helpful for me to define what the word PARTAKE means.

PARTAKE means to SHARE FULLY!

PARTAKE is not the same as TAKE PART.

TAKE PART is to take part but not all whereas; PARTAKE is to share fully.

Listen to this reference from the book of Hebrews chapter two and verse fourteen.

**Hebrews 2:14** - Forasmuch then as the children are **partakers** of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise **took part** of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Jesus took part of flesh and blood the flesh part but not the blood. Mankind however partook of both flesh and blood of the first Adam.

This word PARTAKE as seen in the book of Hebrews is the same word the Apostle Paul will use in Philippians chapter one and verse seven.

Listen to Philippians 1:7

**Philippians 1:7** - Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are **partakers** of my **grace**.

Again, who was Paul speaking to?

He was speaking to his partners in the gospel.

If you are a partner to a ministry, you should NOT only TAKE-PART, instead you should PARTAKE.

Partners PARTAKE of the same grace upon the ministry they are connected with.

By way of illustration; that would look like one Christian investing in the work of the kingdom financially and another going into the field or teaching and preaching the gospel. The one who **sent** is rewarded in the same way as the one who **went** into the field.

There is a precedent for this even in the old testament.

In 1 Samuel 30. David and his men pursued their enemy, the Amalekites. Some of David's men had become tired when they reached a certain brook called Besor. Two hundred (200) of his men were too exhausted to go on. David instructed the weary ones to remain behind and guard the supplies. Then he and the rest of the men went on across, found the Amalekites, and—by the power of God—defeated them.

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They not only defeated the army and recovered all their own possessions, they took what belonged to the Amalekites as well. So when they came back across the Besor, they brought with them a great spoil!

When the fighting men rejoined the 200 others, some of them didn't want to share the rewards of that war with those who had stayed behind.

"Because they went not with us, we will not give them aught of the spoil that we have recovered," they said.

It was at that moment that David, a man after God's own heart, officially established the principle of partnership.

**1 Sam. 30:23-25** - Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the Lord hath given us...but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

You may not be on the front lines of the fivefold ministry. Yet, because of partnership with a minister who is doing the work of God, fighting alongside him or her through prayer or through giving, you'll receive an eternal reward for every person who is born again, and every believer who is strengthened or healed or delivered as a result of that minister's endeavors.

Become a partaker of God's grace through partnership.

Derick E Wilkes  
**Congregation of Churches**



## Previous Editions of **PARTNER MONTHLY**



**February**



**March**



**April**



# 2021 CALENDAR

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED SHOULD DATES CHANGE FOR EVENTS

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OF CHURCHES**  
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## 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**

TOTAL FAITH  
IMMERSION  
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SEE AD NEXT PAGE



**AUGUST 6TH**

PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY



**FEBRUARY  
EDITION**



**MARCH  
EDITION**

PRESENTS

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- THE PREACHED WORD
- FAITH WORKSHOP

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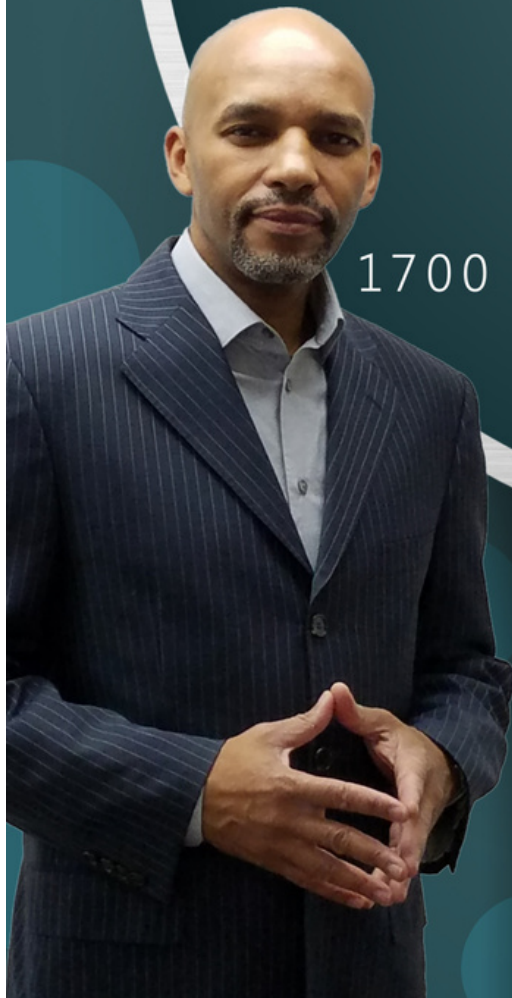
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