

GOSPEL ALLIANCE QUARTERLY UPDATE

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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

"I thank God upon every remembrance of you... for your fellowship (partnership) in the Gospel from the first day until now" Phil.1:5

Perhaps, nowhere else do we see the place of strategic partnership in the promotion of the gospel like in the letters to the Philippians. The apostle was in the prison for the sake of the gospel but could rejoice he has the church "both in his bond and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" (1:7). He could trust them for prayers (1:19), he could trust them to be united and stand by each other for the promotion of the gospel (1:27, and chapter 2). He wanted them to have the same mind with him in his pursuit after the knowledge of Christ and in living for the kingdom of heaven (Chapter 3). Finally, he thanked them for reaching out to his material needs. Indeed, it was a strategic partnership!

God has tied the promotion of the gospel to our very partnership or fellowship for two reasons. First, it is such a huge task that it cannot be done by any one man or organization. Second, our very fellowship is the essence of the gospel, so that a gospel that is proclaimed outside of true fellowship and partnership is really no gospel. By fellowship in the gospel, we necessarily implies the expression of the Gospel and its promotion in the individual and Cooperate life of the Church.

The gospel is greatly promoted when it finds expressions in the lives of its professors. Nothing hinders the gospel like when it is not found true in the life of those professing it. Our utmost focus in fellowshipping in the Gospel must be to see that the gospel finds expression in our personal life. Our question should be: how has the death burial and resurrection found express in my life? His resurrection speaks of victory over sin and death, therefore ask yourself, am I free from the grip of sin, and the fear of death...?

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CONT'D...

Beyond the personal expression, we see a large place given to the cooperate expression and promotion of the gospel in the epistle. The gospel is cooperately expressed through the Church. It is the body of Christ ***“the fullness of Him that filleth all in all”***. In other words, it is the Church that enforces the victory of Christ. She is the expression of this new kingdom which have come to dislodge the kingdom of darkness. To corporately express the gospel, the church must be equipped by way of fellowshiping in the gospel, an example of this is seen in Acts 13:1-3. In such fellowship every ministry gift is brought together for the edification of the church for the work of the ministry **(Eph.4;11-15)**

When the gospel is expressed in the individual life, and corporately, it will automatically result in promoting the gospel extensively (Geographic Spread) and intensively (Maturity of the Church). It is towards this end we fellowship in the gospel. We must ask ourselves: am I participating in a meaningful way in the spreading of the gospel and in growing myself and other brethren I am in fellowship with? This will necessary mean we getting involved in a real and practical fellowship with other brethren where we mutually edify one another, and take definite steps towards promoting the gospel. If you are involved in a gathering or fellowship where this is not the case, then such gathering is merely a social gathering, there is no fellowship in the gospel in such gathering; they are fellowshiping in something else – perhaps it is a fellowship centered on “denomination”.

We see very much craze to promote a denomination or even a “non-denomination” at the expense of the gospel. If every local assembly were indeed fellowshiping in the gospel, we should have seen the world evangelized and the church grown to maturity.

We shall pick some practical ways of fellowshiping in the gospel from the epistle to the Philippians:

1. The Gospel demands commitment and faithfulness of those involved in the “local fellowship” or team. Are you dependable like Timothy (2:19 – 23), or like the Philippians, have you been consistent in the fellowship of the Gospel from the first day till now? (1:5)
2. The Gospel demands the progress of God’s work in our lives; that is our growth in knowledge and discernment so as to seek the best means of promoting the gospel (1:6, 9,10)
3. The Gospel demands we partake in the grace of one another (1:7). Fellowship in the gospel will mean that your grace covers for areas where I am lacking grace, and so does mine.
4. The Gospel demands our heart be involved in its fellowship (1:7). You don’t get involved casually. It is unfortunate that we have those involved in the ministry of the gospel simply for pay, and not as a heartfelt burden for the brethren and the work
5. The Gospel demands we accept suffering and privation, a determination to see that the gospel progresses whether it means personal hardship. (1:13-14), Paul calls this the fellowship of His Sufferings (3:10)
6. The gospel demands a fellowship that is not given to contention and competition (1:15-18, 2:1-5). This will mean those involved in such fellowship is dead to self.
7. The Gospel demands a fellowship given to prayer (1:19)
8. The Gospel demands a fellowship that seeks opportunity for more abundant labour (1:22-23)
9. The Gospel demands a fellowship that stands fast in one spirit, focused and unintimidated (1:27 – 30, 3:12 – 21)
10. The Gospel demands a fellowship that is given to supporting their frontiers materially
Reflect deeply, are you truly fellowshiping in the Gospel. This is a very vital and serious demand of the gospel.

PARTNERING WITH GOSPEL ALLIANCE

Gospel Alliance aims to raise mature and balanced Christian workers. Our vision is for the Church to fulfill her vocation in this age, and we believe that this can be achieved through the word of God, prayer, fellowship, training, and a strong emphasis on family life. Our mission is to provide a platform for Christian workers to come together in fellowship and receive ministerial support. We believe that through this, we can labor for the reformation and revival of the Church, and the promotion of the gospel.

WHAT WE DO

1. Campus Work: As part of our aim to raise mature Christians, we have a special focus on campuses and higher institutions of learning. We carry out the following:

- **Campus Evangelism:** We visit campuses for one-on-one evangelism.
- **Discovery Bible Study (DBS):** This class helps seekers discover the way of salvation.
- **Discipleship Exposure and Experience Program (DEEP):** This is a follow up to DBS, those who have come to faith are further exposed to discipleship.
- **The Gates:** This is a program that strategically engages young leaders.

2. Publication and Media: We seek to reach out to the church and young ministers in particular through:

- **Young Ministers Digest (YMD):** This is a biannual publication aims to equip young people for ministry.
- **E-books:** Our e-books consist of training materials and transcribed messages. You can check them out on our website.
- **Podcast:** We host weekly podcast on various Christian themes. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel for more.

3. Trainings: Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry involves intensive trainings. We run the following trainings/Courses

- Short Bible Course
- Evangelism and Missions Exposure Course
- Music Ministers Course
- Children and Teens Ministry Training
- Leadership Trainings

Please visit our website to see and register for upcoming training

4. Retreats and Conferences: This is aimed at promoting fellowship and edifying the saints. We hold the following retreats and conferences:

- **Prayer and Word Conference:** This conference holds annually in January.
- **Co-Labourers Retreat:** This is a quarterly Retreat of friends and partners
- **Family Time Out:** Once every two months we meet to study issues relating to family life.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Indeed, it's a large work the Lord has committed to us, and we invite you to Prayerfully consider:

1. Joining the Gospel Alliance team. Please write to us to know the membership requirement.

2. Becoming a financial partner: Please request our financial policies to understand how to effectively partner with us.

NEWS

1. Co-Laboures Retreat (CLR) held from 24th to 26th of March with the theme: Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. You are welcome to request the transcription of the message.

2. Family Time Out held on the 6th of May. It was a breakfast meeting with a bible study on "Marriage and God's purpose for your life". Feel free to request the bible study outline.

3. Evangelism and DBS: We have been involved in one-on-one evangelism in some student lodge around UNIPORT. DBS class has been holding consistently for the past one month. Please pray that all participants will come to a saving Knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

UP-COMING EVENTS

1. JUNE CLR: 30th June to 2nd July, 2023

2. Family Time out: 8th July, 2023

3. Short Bible Course (First Contact): 17th to 26th August, 2023

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