

Partnership

“Restoration of the Family!”

1/28/18

Rebuilding & Restoring

Today, I want to conclude our study on Partnership with a teaching on the “Restoration of the Family.” This includes the family of God or the church of the Lord Jesus Christ as we team up together to build up and advance the kingdom of God.

Proverbs 29:18 The Message (MSG)

¹⁸ If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

During the last month or two, prior to 2018, I've been hearing in my spirit that this is the year for the restoration of the family. Since then, I have come across several prophetic words from other established prophets confirming the same – that this is indeed the year for the restoration of the family. This includes our extended families such as our brothers and sisters, cousins, etc., but especially family units that the enemy has broken apart. Now, this does not mean that we go and try to be reconciled to broken relationships without the instructions and help of the Lord. But we do see and observe what God is doing and then we get in the flow of what He is doing, following His leading and guidance.

Luke 4:18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...

When God ordained relationships are severed; especially when the enemy is involved, often the Lord must bring some degree of healing and restoration within us before the healing and restoration can come to our relationships. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted! **This means the brokenhearted need to be healed!** Man cannot heal the wounded soul, only God can!

Isaiah said the following:

Isaiah 58:12 King James Version (KJV)

*¹² And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, **The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.***

Breach here comes from the Hebrew word “perets” (pron. “peh-rets”). It means a break, gap, or breach; especially a gap in a wall. Perets come from the verb “parats” which means to break forth, break open, or break down. As used in Isaiah 58:12, it shows that gaps or breaches need to be repaired. Repairing the breach often means **rebuilding**, which is another word that I heard from the Lord. The word **rebuild** means to build (something) again after it has been damaged or destroyed. Synonyms include: *reconstruct, renovate, restore, remodel, remake, reassemble*. Amos 9:11 said the following concerning Israel’s restoration.

Amos 9:11 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ “On that day I will raise up “The tabernacle of David,” which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old.

This is an indication of what can happen within our souls when they are damaged or in need of healing. This means there are damages within our souls that need to be repaired so that God can rebuild and raise us up; realigning our minds and emotions with His heart of love and compassion. He may want to bring us into new and better relationships, which means we must be willing to let go of the past and move on.

The Hebrew word for **restorer** in Isaiah 58:12 is “shub” (pron. “shoov”) and it means to turn back; return, restore, bring back, retrieve, or reverse. Its usual sense is “return”, that is to go back to a point of departure. In a spiritual sense, it can mean to turn away from God or to repent and turn away from one’s sin and toward God. When God restores, He brings things back to its original intent and purpose. From the life and example of Job, we can see that God’s restoration was better than the original! This is what we can look forward to in the days ahead!

Isaiah 61:4 King James Version (KJV)

⁴ And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Generations have to do with families, and it can be the family of God where churches, both locally and corporately overcome the walls of division that separated us, and we begin to operate again as one – not a house divided.

In Pursuit of Christ!

Acts 10:36-38 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Christ is not Jesus' last Name. It means "The Anointed One and His Anointing." While in prayer, I heard the following scripture concerning the anointing.

Isaiah 10:27 King James Version (KJV)

²⁷ And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

If we remember that it is the anointing within us by the Holy Spirit that will remove every burden and destroy every yoke, then we can get far more done than we would otherwise.

However, we all need to know Jesus Christ, the Healer and Restorer of all things; the one who was anointed by God, the Father to bring healing and restoration to us! Jesus healed all who were oppressed of the devil because 1) He was anointed, and 2) God was with Him! Jesus walked in this kind of anointing, not just because He was the Son of God, but because He only did what His Father told Him to do and He remained in the Father's perfect will.

These three things are also vitally important to us as believers – knowing that we are anointed, and that God is with us. Knowing this, we find His will, get in it, and remain in it as we pursue Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. *How then do we find His perfect will for our lives?* We follow the Voice of the Holy Spirit, and we continue to do so. This is our goal in life as believers because in Christ we live and move and have our being; so, we are in continual pursuit of Him. One of my favorite passages of scripture is in John 10 where Jesus introduces Himself to His followers as the Good Shepherd who leads His own sheep by name. He said His sheep will know His voice and follow Him because they know not the voice of a stranger. Therefore, they will not follow the voice of a stranger.

John 10:2-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Even if it seems like your life is not making any sense and you don't understand where you're going, you can know His voice and keep following Him. He will lead us out!

From Two to Thousands

We cannot accomplish the purposes of God alone! Don't get me wrong! We cannot blame or accuse others for hindering us when it comes to the call of God because we must be willing to go if we have to go by ourselves. However, He will bring us into right relationships so that His plans and purposes can be fulfilled in our lives. There is a principle of two, or we could say, the principle of partnership.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

In the New Testament, we understand that we are helpers of one another. However, we can see the emphasis of two more than one or abiding alone. When Noah built the ark, he led the others into it by twos.

Genesis 7:15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.

Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs of two.

Mark 6:7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.

Jesus introduced the power of two standing together in agreement.

Matthew 18:19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

This is why forgiveness is so important and especially in the kingdom of God. If the enemy can pull us over into strife and division, then he has succeeded in stopping the power and effectiveness of two or more of us standing together to defeat him and to stop him from defeating us.

We may see just two, but God sees thousands! We can see this through the lives of Abraham and Sarah. Initially, it was just the two of them, partnering together as husband and wife. In their minds, God had promised the one son, and this is what they were set their faith out to receive. However, God saw thousands and thousands. By the time Moses came along, Israel a descendant of Abraham & Sarah, had already grown and multiplied into thousands.

Exodus 18:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

There was a blessing pronounced over Rebekah, that she would become the mother of thousands of ten thousands.

Genesis 24:59-61 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

God not only sees thousands, but He speaks in terms of thousands.

Exodus 20:5-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 32:29-30 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

³⁰ How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had surrendered them?

³¹ For their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

Teaming up together, we can impact thousands! Initially, God said concerning Adam that it was not good for him to be alone, so He gave him a helpmate.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

God is rebuilding the family, which includes His family. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is being rebuilt and restored to its original intent and He has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Romans 5:9-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we

also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Over and over, we are reminded that we have been reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:19-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Moses law gave space to separation without reconciliation. Husbands could put away their wives for any reason. Lepers could be separated from their families for life. However, Jesus emphasized reconciliation, for He said the following:

Matthew 5:23-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Matthew 19:1-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

³ *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”*

⁴ *And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

⁷ *They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”*

⁸ *He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”*

¹⁰ *His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”*

One person alone cannot hold a marriage together. It takes both! Both must be willing to commit to God and to one another! God will also not charge one for what the other does because when it comes to sin, we are not judged as a unit, but individually. We can see this from the example of Ananias and Saphira as well as Jezebel in the book of Revelation.

This is what we do when God calls us to a particular work for kingdom purposes. It takes two or both parties committing to God and to the work if it is going to be established. This is the power and the principle of partnership! We are in it together and together we will impact our cities, regions, and even nations for the advancement of the kingdom of God!