

# 4

## *The Fourth Step*

### *Toward Intimacy With The Lord*

*A year or more elapsed before the Lord continued to teach the fourth step. “I want to teach you now about partners. In all the world and in all the ages I have had very few friends, but even more, I have had very very few partners.*

**I am able to do far more through partners than I can through servants or friends.”**

To be a partner is to be a co-owner. Those with whom He partners are co-owners of the business. It is a family business, the business of the Kingdom. A partner is a co-owner of the business of the Kingdom with the Lord. With co-ownership, all that belongs to the Lord also belongs to His partners. The Kingdom is as much a partner's as it is the Lord's. The Kingdom is the name of the family business. And partnership is greater than friendship. Will He invite you into being a partner with Him?

*John 17:21*

*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

The difference between partnership and friendship is like the difference between friendship and servanthood. A servant does the bidding of his master out of authority. A friend does the will of a close friend because of love. But a partner does the will of their co-partner out of mutual agreement. It is a working relationship that is based upon profound appreciation of both intimate

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PO Box 725

Charlemont, MA 01339 \* USA

Tel: 413-339-8630 \* E-mail: [Kingdom8@juno.com](mailto:Kingdom8@juno.com) \* Web: [www.kingdomfaith.org](http://www.kingdomfaith.org)

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## *Five Keys To Deeper Intimacy With The Lord*

relationship and proven trustworthiness. Partners agree together first on what needs to be done in the family business. They learn to operate in complete agreement with one another. Concerning the business of the Kingdom, they become one.

Thus a partner with the Lord does not whine. He doesn't complain. Instead, partners discuss and agree, and when agreement is reached, all that is necessary to accomplish the agreement is supplied.<sup>1</sup> The favor of God is released. There is no fanciful wishing, nor even quiet longing that can become unthankfulness. There is, among partners, purpose and confidence, trust and love, respect and appreciation. There is full integration of heart and mind, never independence. It is not that this partnership is equal. But the Lord is both willing and able to work with those with whom He can flow in one-ness. There is neither argument, doubt, or presumption to disturb the advancement of the Kingdom business. He does this work as with an equal, though His partner has, as yet, seemingly little to offer.

Abraham was such a partner. When the Lord shared His intention to deal with Sodom and Gomorrah, it was Abraham's relationship with Him that encouraged a willingness to engage, respectfully question, and even pursue a contrary point.<sup>2</sup> Just as the Lord has chosen not to do anything without first telling the prophets,<sup>3</sup> and as the Lord chose to tell Abraham His plan, so do partners with Him in the Kingdom solicit each other's opinions and develop their plans in mutual agreement. Though the Lord is easily able to operate without those with Whom He partners, He nevertheless chooses to do otherwise. And this He does, not because He needs them. He partners because He wants them.

"The Kingdom is like..."<sup>4</sup> is the Lord's expression to describe what cannot be fully embraced in mere intellectual words, and which are not given to understand by those who neither see nor hear Him.<sup>5</sup> Thus the Kingdom is described by parables, and metaphoric expressions to illustrate its character. But the Kingdom is about the presence of the King. So also does the spiritual concept of partnership defy intellectual portrayal. But in examining the character of the partnership of the Holy Spirit, the nature of the Lord's spiritual partnership becomes clear.

*John 14:15-21;*  
*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter [paraklētos = an intercessor, consoler, advocate, comforter], that he may abide with you forever;*

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<sup>1</sup> Amos 3:3 *Can two walk together except they be agreed?*

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 18:17-33

<sup>3</sup> Amos 3:7

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 13

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 13:13

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*Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but **ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

*I will not leave you comfortless [orphanos = orphaned, fatherless]: I will come to you.*

*Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but **ye see me:** because I live, ye shall live also.*

*At that day **ye shall know** that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, **and will manifest myself to him.***

[bold and bracket comments by the author]

*John 14:26*

*But **the Comforter**, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***

*John 15:26*

*But **when the Comforter is come**, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:***

*John 16:7-8*

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

*John 16:13 -15*

***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide** [hodēgeō = to show the way, guide, lead.] **you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.***

***14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.***

***15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of<sup>7</sup> mine, and shall show it unto you.***

*John 13:20*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me;** and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a most marvelous present to the children of the Lord. It is the Holy Spirit Who enables communion with our Master. As our secret and often quiet partner (often He only speaks when we ask His opinion!), and given by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is

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the perfect partner Who speaks only what the Master gives Him to speak to us. They are one, and their purpose is to make us one also with them and with our Father. This is the partnership of one. This is the partnership of co-ownership of the Kingdom.

Many saints do not know the person of the Holy Spirit. But when The Holy Spirit is addressed and consulted as a person, and when He is invited and embraced actively in one's heart, His presence quickly invades all the room in the heart that is volunteered to Him. He never makes His presence manifest without invitation; His will is never separate from the Lord's. He is the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His commission is to guide the people of God into deeper intimacy with the Master, the All Truth, Whose name is Jesus Christ, the King of the Kingdom of God.

Thus can we come into the Father's loving embrace. The glory of the Lord is His presence, and the eagerness of the Holy Spirit to enable the glory of God to increase in the earth has everything to do with increasing the degree of partnership with Jesus. Our increasing partnership with the Holy Spirit guides us to increasing nearness to our First Love.

Pause. Be still. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh. Let Him guide you to the joy of the presence of the Lord, for in His presence is fullness of joy. This is the path of life<sup>6</sup> designed by the Lord, and executable only by the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup> He is the perfect partner to help us!

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<sup>6</sup> Psalm 16:11

<sup>7</sup> John 13:20

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# 5

## *The Fifth Step*

### *Toward Intimacy With The Lord*

*Six months later came... "The fifth and final step I want to teach you to teach others about intimacy with Me is that*

**The greatest partnership there is, is the partnership of the Bride with the Bridegroom."**

There is no greater partnership than the bride with her Bridegroom. Finding a marriageable partner was the purpose of the servant of Abraham, in search of a suitable bride for his precious and only son of promise, Isaac.

The servant was on a mission, and devoted to this purpose. He searched with the eyes of God, and tested the one whom God had chosen. She proved herself worthy. Rebekah was her name. So, too, is the Holy Spirit searching for a bride suitable for the Master.

This Master is our first love, for Whom our affections are singular and devoted. *This is my beloved, and this is my friend (Songs of Songs 5:16b) ... My beloved is mine, and I am His (Songs of Songs 2:16a) ... Thou hast ravished my heart (Songs 4:9a)...*

*Song of Songs 2:10-14*

*My beloved spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

*11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

*12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;*

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*13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

*14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.*

The Bride, having progressed in learning that her

- husband will never leave her nor forsake her;
- that He is well pleased in her constancy, affectionately meeting with Him;
- and having thus developed their intimacy from master-servanthood into devoted friendship;
- and having yearned for more, stayed hungry for deeper affection, and proven her faithfulness and trustworthiness in the partnership of the Kingdom family business;
- the longing of the Master's heart becomes as unquenchable fire for His true partner for eternity, the Bride of His passion that He can present to His Father, a glorious church,<sup>8</sup> a suitable and worthy companion for all the ages to come.

*Revelation 21:9b-11*

*...Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

*10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

*11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

*Rev 22:17*

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Beloved, come away with your First Love. Let Him nurture and cherish your heart as you do His. Let His affections propel you more deeply into the dwelling place of intimacy that He went to go to prepare for you<sup>9</sup> in the secret place.<sup>10</sup> This is the place of preparation of the Bride, and it is to be the first pursuit of our heart. Nothing else matters, for in seeking first the Kingdom presence of God, he supplies every need.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 5:25-27

<sup>9</sup> John 14:1 -3

<sup>10</sup> Psalm 91:1

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 6:33

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Thus it is that the demands of the world hold no barrier, and become no obstacle, reason, or excuse for the uncompromised passionate pursuit of our Beloved. He is our all in all; He is ours and we are His. Daily, progressively, methodically the Holy Spirit serves the Father, seeking a bride for His Son. This will be the temple made without hands, the final place of rest for the glory of God. And being found of Him, the Bride finds rest and fulfillment for all eternity.

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