

Preparations for Partnership:
Genuine Gratitude for Genuine Faith
Romans 1:8-15 (8)

Romans 1:8 (ESV) *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.*

God is at work in the world!

Acts 2:47 (ESV) *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

John 6:44 (ESV) *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

God continues the work of redemption and salvation today! Across the Muslim world, among the Persian people of Iran, in China, in Africa, in South America, throughout Asia, and even here in the secular, affluent countries of the West, in spite of ourselves, God draws men and women, boys and girls to Himself in saving grace every single day.

God continues to send His Spirit-empowered message of salvation in Jesus Christ into the world by authorized representatives.

Marin Hay - Poland

Ashraf - Egypt

Valita - Haiti

God also sends you!

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Acts 1:8 (ESV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

God is at work in the world and God is at work in you preparing you to partner with Him in His work in the world.

What preparations does God make in us to prepare us for partnership with Him?

Paul illustrates ten healthy preparations God works in disciple-making disciples. (Rom. 1:8-15)

Three Preliminary Notes:

1. Passion motivates Paul to prepare fellow Christians for partnership in the gospel.
 - a. Passion
 - i. Passion for the person of Jesus Christ
 - ii. Passion for the work of Jesus Christ
 - iii. Passion for the authority of Jesus Christ
 - iv. Passion for the message of Jesus Christ.
 - b. All the preparations we are going to find and consider
 - i. focus on the person, work, authority, and message of Jesus, the whole glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.
 - ii. They focus on the glory of God in Christ revealed to the world through the church, which is us!
 - iii. While we are the focus of the preparations, the intent of the preparations is to focus us on Christ.
 - iv. **As we work through these ten preparations of partnership, look for Jesus not only in these ideas but in your own hearts and lives!**
2. The passion of Romans is to make disciple-making disciples of all of us.
 - a. Do you understand that God's purpose in this letter, and in all His word, it to make a disciple-making disciple of you?
 - i. A disciple is one who responds with genuine faith to the gospel,
 - ii. A disciple is one who is filled with the Spirit of God to live Christ's servant life in the world to the glory of God
 - iii. A disciple is one who fulfills their commission as a disciple of Jesus to make disciples for Jesus
 - b. **Believers must see and embrace their roles as disciple-makers!**
 - i. Considerations
 - (1) How we raise our children
 - (2) How we do business
 - (3) How we practice care giving
 - (4) How we engage in worship and mission
 - ii. Everything about the life of a true believer is affected by the degree to which you are convicted and convinced of your disciple-making responsibility from the Lord
 - (1) How you use your time
 - (2) How you set and pursue personal values
 - (3) How you make choices
 - (4) How you use wealth
 - (5) How you gauge and follow opportunity
 - iii. All of these are guided by the degree to which you understand and commit to your divine commission to be a disciple-making disciple!
 - (1) You are not just a mom or dad, you are a disciple-making disciple for your children.
 - (2) You are not just a businessman, a student, a teacher, an office worker, a nutrition coach, or an addictions counselor.
 - (3) If you are a true Christ-follower at all, whatever else you do in life,

you are to be a disciple-making disciple.

3. These 10 Preparations for Partnership produce a powerful passion for preaching the gospel in disciple-making disciples!
 - a. **God is at work in the world and God is at work in you preparing you to partner with Him in His work!**
 - b. God develops a single passion in His disciples that flow in three directions
 - i. Passion for Jesus and the gospel
 - ii. Passion born of the gospel for your brothers and sisters, fellow servants of Christ
 - iii. Passion inherent in the gospel for the salvation of sinners through the personal presentation of the gospel.
 - (1) The gospel is the message of God's love for lost people
 - (2) You were a lost person found by God's love and given the opportunity to assist others to find the love of God for themselves.
 - (3) Michael Card - "Im just a poor, lost, hungry beggar telling you where I found food."

So, what are these ten healthy preparations for partnership that God is working in us?

1. v. 8 Genuine gratitude for genuine faith.
 - a. **Romans 1:8 (ESV) *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.***
2. v. 9-10 Persistent prayer for potential partners
 - a. **Romans 1:9-10 (ESV) *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.***
3. v. 11a Abundant affection
 - a. **Romans 1:11 (ESV) *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—***
4. v. 11b Intentional investment
 - a. **Romans 1:11 (ESV) *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—***
5. v. 11c Spiritual strength
 - a. **Romans 1:11 (ESV) *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—***
6. v. 12 Personal promise
 - a. **Romans 1:12 (ESV) *that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.***
7. v. 13a Consistent communication
 - a. **Romans 1:13 (ESV) *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.***
8. v. 13b Reasonable Reality
 - a. **Romans 1:13 (ESV) *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.***

9. v. 13c Gracious goals
 - a. **Romans 1:13 (ESV)** *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.*
10. v. 13d -14 Serious scope
 - a. **Romans 1:13 (ESV)** *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.*

Are you a disciple-making disciple?

1. Do you truly know Christ as your Savior and are you trusting Him daily for your life?
2. Is it your intent, empowered by the Spirit of God, to fulfill the will of God in your life and with your life for the glory of God?
3. What preparations does God need to make in my life to bring me up to speed as a disciple-making disciple?
4. What barriers to I need to remove in order to fulfill my commitment to follow Jesus?