



# PARTNERSHIP



*WILLIAM TAYLOR*





*William Taylor's Partnership is a lively, brilliant and courageous exposition of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. I am delighted to recommend this gem of a book about a gem of a New Testament church. It is the work of a first class preacher of God's Word and deserves to be very widely read.*

Rev Dr Mark Stibbe

*You will this book on Philippians exudes the warmth of the letter itself. It is a faithful explanation of the letter, engages with our lives and is insightfully applied.*

*William is one of the finest leaders I know. His background as a Captain in the Royal Greenjackets prepared him well for leadership in the church. He is a man who recognises the eternal significance of pastoral leadership; it is his compassionate pastoral care, so evident at St Helen's, which reflects itself in his preaching and in this book.*

*I warmly recommend it to you.*

David Cook, Sydney Missionary & Bible College





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*Concise, portable spiritual food - Philippians*



WILLIAM TAYLOR

ST HELEN'S  
MEDIA  
CHRISTIAN  
**FOCUS**





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## About the Author

William Taylor served in the British Army from 1983-88. Having studied at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, he was ordained in 1991 and subsequently appointed curate at Christ Church, Bromley. In 1995 he joined St Helen's, Bishopsgate, an historic church in the City of London, where he became Rector in 1998. He is married to Janet, and they have three children - Emily, Digby and Archie.





## Preface

It is my deep conviction that God works in His mighty power by His Spirit through His Word. Jesus puts it that way in John 6:63: *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.* It is by Jesus' life-giving and eternal Word that his people are born again by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:23); it is by Jesus' life-giving Word that His people grow up to maturity in salvation (1 Peter 2:2). When Philip asks to be shown the Father (John 14:8), Jesus' answer is framed in terms of the work of the Spirit in giving us His word through the Apostles' teaching. Any mighty work of the Spirit of God and any expression of genuine Christian discipleship will have at its very centre the living Word of God. The Bible is the essential bread-and-butter of every Christian's life and growth. Scripture is the vital diet of every healthy church and of every authentic movement of the Spirit.

The aim of this book is to help bring the Word of God to the people of God through the simple expounding of that Word. It is my desire that Christian people will be strengthened in their discipleship and encouraged to engage in bold and adventurous gospel partnership through this exposition of Paul's letter to the Philippians. The book





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originated from a series of talks given at St Helen's and then within the Tuesday lunchtime ministry to business people in the City of London. It is an immense privilege to serve God within a church family that is hungry to be taught God's Word, and many of the reflections and discoveries in this book come as a result of conversations and observations made by members of the church family as we have explored the letter together. As with any Bible teaching enterprise, it is very much a 'work in progress'.

Alongside a close study of the text of Philippians I have found a number of commentaries and books particularly helpful. Amongst the most useful have been the following: Peter O'Brien, *Commentary on Philippians*, NIGTC, Eerdmans; J. A. Motyer, *The Message of Philippians*, BST, IVP; Gordon Fee, *Paul's letter to the Philippians*, NICNT, Eerdmans; D. A. Carson, *Basics for Believers*, IVP.

I am enormously grateful to Rachel Meek for her help in editing my transcripts, and to Claire Tunks and Brian O'Donoghue who have painstakingly read and re-read each chapter. Each of them has been gracious enough not to ask the author what on earth he did in all those English lessons at school when he should have been learning the rudimentary principles of spelling and grammar that are so useful in making the English language intelligible!

