

Collab #2 Review:

A collab is two or more people partnering together as a team to accomplish an agenda greater than their own and a goal greater than their own.

Successful Collabs:

Collaborate, Commit to the Collaboration, Endure Hardships Together, Embrace Weakness

Collab #3: Collabs & Power

Because of our tendency towards innate independence and inborn self-glorifying (see Collab #1), we often malfunction when it comes to the "power center" of our lives and collabs.

Power has to do with what we can depend on, what we trust, and where we look to for life. Power helps us work through adversity, conflict, and pain.

Before we even talk about collabs and power, we must understand that we fundamentally look inward for power, rather than upward.

Though we know the Gospel in our heads, there are ways it has yet to take hold of our hearts. We know God is our Father, yet we function as if we are an orphan. Children with a strong bond to their parents trust that parents and find power through that relationship. An orphan has learned they can only rely on themselves.

Take a moment to read through the list. Put dots next to anything that sticks out. Circle one thing in the orphan column and one thing child of God column that REALLY sticks out to you.

Orphans	Children of God
I will not leave you as orphans... (John 14:18)	But he has given us the Spirit of sonship and by him we cry, "Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:15)
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels alone. Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God. Is full of self-concern.	Has a growing assurance that "God is really <i>my</i> loving heavenly Father."
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxious over felt needs: relationships, money, health. "I'm all alone and nobody cares. I'm not a happy camper."	Trusts the Father and has a growing confidence in his loving care. Is being freed up from worry.
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives on a succeed/fail basis. Needs to "look good" and "be right." Is performance-oriented.	Learning to live in daily, conscious, partnership with God. Is not fearful.
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels condemned, guilty, and unworthy before God and others.	Feels loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because Christ's merit really clothes him.
<input type="checkbox"/> Has little faith, lots of fear, lots of faith in himself: "I've got to fix it."	Has a daily <i>working trust</i> in God's sovereign plan for her life as loving, wise, and best. Believes God is good.
<input type="checkbox"/> Labors under a sense of unlimited obligation. Tries too hard to please. Burns out.	Prayer is the first resort: "I'm going to ask my daddy first." Cries "Abba, Father!"
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebellious. Resists authority. Heart is hard. Is not easily teachable.	Has strength to be submissive. Has a soft (broken and contrite) heart. Is teachable.
<input type="checkbox"/> Defensive. Can't listen well. Bristles at the charge of being self-righteous (thus proving the point).	Open to criticism since she <i>consciously</i> stands in <i>Christ's</i> perfection, not her own. Is able to examine her unbelief.
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be right, safe, secure. Unwilling to fail. Unable to tolerate criticism. Can only "handle" praise.	Able to take risks and even fail, since his righteousness is in Christ. Needs no "record" to boast in, protect, or defend.
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessively self-confident or self-loathing. Discouraged, defeated. Lacks spiritual power.	Confident in Christ and encouraged because of the Holy Spirit's work in her.
<input type="checkbox"/> Tends toward an "I can do it myself!" attitude. Is strong-willed, driven.	"I can do all things through <i>Christ</i> who gives me strength!"
<input type="checkbox"/> Unbelieving effort. Relies only on his gifts to get by in ministry.	Trusting <i>less</i> in self and more in the Holy Spirit—a daily, conscious, reliance.

POWERFUL COLLABS = COLLABS FULL OF POWER.

For a collab to be full of power, there needs to be a fundamental shift from the people in the collab looking internally to themselves for power, or solely to the collective resources of the group for power.

This is counter-intuitive, because usually our first questions are "What am I good at?", "What resources do we have together?", "What makes us stand out?", "What am I getting right?". These are great questions, but they can also subtly rob us of spiritual power, because they are questions that focus us on internal sources of power.

For a collab to be successful, we must move from independence to interdependence. For a collab to be powerful, we must move from self-dependence to God-dependence. This is where true power is found.



HOW DO WE MOVE FROM SELF-DEPENDENCE TO GOD-DEPENDENCE? INDIVIDUALLY? AS A COLLAB?

Apply the Gospel - When you looked at the Orphan/Child of God chart, did you notice the gap between who you are as a child of God, and how you might function as an orphan?

Finding true power begins with believing the Gospel afresh, and applying it in new ways to your life and your collab. Applying the Gospel gives us a fresh awareness of God's love, commitment, and grace, and puts new motivating power in our hearts.

Pray Dependently- Prayer is an expression of dependence when an individual or team sees their lack of power to do what God has called them to do (as the church, in a marriage, as a representative of Christ). Prayer reveals how dependent we really are.

Let's look at these in greater depth.

applying the Gospel

Our motivating power = Christ's Love for Us (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

Our motivational power lies in the gospel itself and the faith that emerges from hearing the Gospel in our hearts and the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit.

Vision is not the fuel of a team or collab. It does give us direction; but not the power for accomplishing the work of God.

Being filled with the love of God in Christ through the Gospel is what makes collabs possible, because we are free to engage in a lifestyle of love and forgiveness as a means of team building.

Without this, teams move towards breakdown or stagnancy because the reality of sin emerges within every team.

If we don't apply the Gospel to ourselves and our collabs, this will inevitably happen:

- we won't have the bandwidth to deal with other's sin, especially if it is against us.
- we will hide our sin from others, because we don't believe the Gospel for ourselves.
- we will weigh out our sin vs other's sin, finding reasons why their sin is worse.

We must press against these tendencies in ourselves and our team by "applying the Gospel" to find fresh power for ourselves and our team. We do this by believing the Gospel is true when others sin and when we sin.

Look how Paul addresses the church at Corinth, the worst church in the New Testament! (I Corinthians 1:1-9). This is the practical application of seeing each other as "new creations" under the Gospel that is meant to inform our heart perspectives on each other.

Everyday becomes a new opportunity to learn and applying the Gospel to something new in our lives and collabs.

dependent prayer

Why don't we pray? Lots of reasons. But one set of reasons has to do with our own sense of dependency. Often, we don't pray because:

Busy-ness: I've got so much to do, I don't have time to pray. And everything depends on me doing it. Yes, life is crazy busy. But do we fundamentally believe that the key to the universe relies on us getting stuff done? Or on the risen Christ?

Success: We're doing pretty well, so we don't need to pray. While we might not say this, we often function this way. It is a "quiet pride" that shows up in the absence of prayer.

Wisdom: If things don't work in life, or if a collab isn't functioning, we can always find a common sense reasons why something went wrong. But is that the only wisdom that we are lacking? Are we listening to God together in prayer? Proud people don't listen well. It is hard to pray when you don't have a lot of questions.

Accusations: Satan is the accuser, and he accuses 24/7/365. We often don't pray because we wallow in guilt, shame, self-pity, our own hurts, and concerns. Instead of depending on God about these things in prayer, we lay down and listen to Satan's accusations.

So where do we start to grow in dependency in prayer? The Gospel. Prayer and the Gospel mirror each other.

Grace - There is an expectation that God will freely bless sinners both in salvation and in prayer.

God-centered - Prayer is about who God is and what He is committed to do. It is not primarily about us, although we are participants.

Humility/Need - Needy people are the ones who ask, both for salvation and in prayer. If you have a sense you can do it, then you don't need to receive salvation OR pray.

Sonship - Prayer fits the relationship we have with God as our Father.

dependent prayer

The Gospel shapes our prayer - not just wanting new people to come to salvation (YES!), but also having Gospel confidence as we pray....

Faith in the Gospel, in the risen Christ to freely bless us, is crucial as we pray. If we have a works view of the Gospel and our relationship with God, we will tend towards a works view of prayer, i.e. God will hear us based on the merit of our prayer, instead of the merit of Jesus Christ.

God doesn't hear our prayers based on how much I have prayed, or even the state of my heart, but based on the merits of Jesus.

If we know we can come boldly to the "throne of grace" in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16), we will. If prayer is a matter of works, we will be more calculating (it's the right thing to do so I'll do it) and less confident of our prayers actually being heard.

Prayer Feeds Our Understanding/Applying/Living Out the Gospel

Risen Christ - Christ's authority becomes real to us and tangible. He is the ruler of the universe, and he conquered death, and he loves us!

Acts 4:23-31

Sent Spirit - Jesus has sent the Spirit and his power is accessible to us. Without the Spirit, we lack love for people. With the Spirit, we bring the true love of God. Eph. 3:14-21. God gives His Spirit to those who are thirsty and ask. Luke 11:11-13

Cleansing - We have an ongoing need for repentance and grace that often feels like it gets in the way of ministry. So we want to change others first, not realizing that part of God's plan is to change us and cleanse us of sin.

Real Power - when the early church started, the Sanhedrin and Rome had the "real" power. The apostles had no human, political or military power. Yet, as they prayed, they turned the world upside down with Gospel power.

powerful collabs

Apply the Gospel and Pray Dependently. This allows collabs to:

- Push through spiritual barriers rather than bulldozing people. (Ephesians 6:12)
- Move beyond what is humanly possible.
- Embrace all that God has called us to.
- Grow in real faith together by praying more authentically, honestly, and confidently.

Prayer Together

What's your take-away from tonight?

Where are you going to apply that in your life?

Schedule:

Feb 1st - No Collab Course

Feb 8 - Collabs and Power pt 1

Feb 15 - Collabs and Power pt 2

Feb 22 - Collabs and Conflict