

Two are Better than One

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up. And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Ecc. 4:9-12)

People are not perfect and they will often let you down and disappoint you, so it is easy to think “I can do this all on my own”. After all, God made us with a desire to provide for and take care of ourselves and our own instead of relying on others. However, to quote a couple of common sayings, “No man is an island” – you will impact others and they will impact you, no matter how hard you try to avoid it; and, though you may be able to accomplish a lot on your own, how much more could you accomplish working in concert with others – “there is strength in numbers”.

Consider the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, where the people were of one language and one accord and God himself said “Behold, the people is one...and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” There is great power in unity. The Bible says “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst” (Matt. 18:20), “if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them” (Matt. 18:19), “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25), “bear ye one another’s burdens” (Gal. 6:1-2), “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24), and “exhort one another daily” (Heb. 3:13).

How many times have you gone to service or to a camp meeting feeling empty or discouraged and been encouraged and fed by the testimony, song, or message that God gave through someone else? I remember a special time when, as young people, several guys prayed together in the dorm every night and it was an amazing, blessed time where we could feel the presence of God. We were all very encouraged and formed a bond that lasted for years. We even wrote letters of encouragement to one another for a while afterwards. Even though most of those guys have now gone away, this is something that has stuck with me and encourages me still, almost 30 years later.

A group of people can be a force multiplier – greater than the sum of its parts. But, for this to work properly, the parts have to be working together as a body, in unity, all working toward the same goal. For example, you would think that a pair of Clydesdale horses could pull twice the load of a single Clydesdale, but they can actually pull 3-4 times more than one of them can alone. And if unified people can have power and accomplish incredible things, how much more, if they also have God on their side and are guided by the Holy Spirit! “With man this is impossible; but with God all things are

possible” (Matt. 19:26). This is what is meant by the phrase “a threefold cord is not easily broken”.

Consider the story in Exodus 17 of the children of Israel in battle against the Amalekites where God’s power caused the Israelites to prevail when Moses’s arms were raised but the Amalekites prevailed when his arms were not raised. Moses was a great man, but he was human and he didn’t have the strength to hold his arms up for hours and hours, so Aaron and Hur stood by his sides and held up his hands until the battle was over.

“We need each other, brethren.” Be there for your friends. Be a positive influence and encouragement. Let’s care for one another, support and encourage one another. We all have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” working toward one Eternal goal.