

February 5, 2011
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Monday

Eccl. 4:9-10 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

God built us for relationship, not merely with Him but with others as well. God intended you for relationships with other believers that will strengthen, challenge, and sustain you. You were made for one another. The verse above is often used at weddings, but its heart is not the relationship between husband and wife, but between companions: brothers in Christ, sisters in the Lord. These two investing in a godly relationship sharpen one another (Prov. 27:17) and sustain one another (Prov. 18:24). You can develop such friendships with determination and intention.

Tuesday

1Sam. 18:1 Now it came about that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.

Forged in the heat of the trenches or brought about in the process of discipleship, the friendships that God establishes in our lives can be meaningful, long lasting, and powerfully encouraging. Too few find such friendship; too few invest deeply in the life of another. Pray that God will lead you to such a friendship (or several). But do not just pray; be proactive in building godly friendships. Remember, like much in the Christian life, you do not gain such friendships by wishing for, longing for, or even seeking a friend. It's the 'reverse principle' that is in play, focus primarily on being a godly friend and God will give you godly friendships.

Wednesday

1Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Koinonia" is the biblical word often translated 'fellowship'. It does not indicate back-slapping, gut-laughing, good ol' times. Instead it describes a relationship of two people who are on a journey with a common goal and a joint labor. It is the 'camaraderie' of French Foreign Legionaries. Team members, scout troops, and soldiers in battle find such union of soul and purpose. Such is your invitation from the Spirit of God. You may have such fellowship with Jesus. Such fellowship you can develop with brothers or sisters in Christ on mission together. But to have such depth of fellowship you must be willing to move from the pew to the trenches. You must run with the team and forge fellowship on the front lines of the mission.

Thursday

Eccl. 4:12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

If two are strong, three are mighty; especially if the third member of the team is God Himself. Brothers grow in depth of friendship when their purposes are united in the plan of God. Sisters grow lifelong and deep friendships when their goal is the strengthening of each other in Christ. God does not call us to merely worldly friendships; He invites us to join together in mutual discipleship. Whom do you know who will talk with you about your walk with God? Whom will you allow to do so? With whom have you built a relationship in order to spur one another to depths of grace and to spiritual growth? Someone? No one? Why not start?

Friday

Matt. 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

There is always a "reverse" principle in play in the successful Christian journey. To gain an outcome, you do not seek it. Instead, you fulfill God's plan and He will grant you gain. So for deep friendships, if you focus on yourself, you will not likely gain a satisfying friendship. Instead focus on being a friend, on investing in another. Then you will gain a friendship more deeply rooted than imagined.