



Moving Forward #3

Time With Others

As we finished the last chapter on prayer, we saw the verse from;

Matthew 18:19-20 “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

This verse emphasizes the need for “two or three” coming together. There is an old saying that goes. “No man (or woman) is an island”. This is never truer than in our Christian walk. We need one another for support. God says that we are all part of one body and even when we’re missing just one part, we don’t function as we should.

Let’s look at what the Bible says about this.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Paul’s instructions are to “stir one another up”. I know that when I am alone it gets hard to keep myself motivated at times. My mind wanders and I easily lose track of what I am supposed to be doing. If we have others around us, we can be more easily directed down the path that we are supposed to be headed. This scripture also encourages us to meet together and to push each other in love.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We are to be together for more than just companionship, God has a purpose in building each other up in His family. We are to teach and support one another and to correct each other in love.

Ecclesiastes 4:

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; ¹⁰for 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! ¹¹Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹² And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not quickly torn apart.

There is strength in numbers. God has given us others around us to protect us and guard us from attacks that come at us. This verse isn’t talking so much about being overpowered by an individual as much as from the attacks of satan and his demons. When we are alone and come under attack we are



easily overcome. When we have a strong brother or sister in Christ alongside us we can withstand attacks.

Romans 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

The body of Christ is truly that, a body. As with the human body, when one part of the body isn't working right, the entire body is affected. When my back is out my hips and legs hurt and I can't walk upright. Also my digestive system won't be right and even my lungs will be struggling.

The family of Christ will not go without impact when its parts are suffering. We can only know that others have an issue if we are close. Conversely, others can know that we need help if they are not close to us. As I said at the opening of this study, "no man (or woman) is an island." We can't stand alone for long; remain close to those that share in our family.