



The Growing Man

I Cor 13:11 – II Timothy 2:15
II Peter 1:5-10 – Psalms 92:12-15
I Timothy 4:12-18



John 15:1-8=> I am the Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. Every Branch in Me that does not bear Fruit He takes away and Every branch that bears Fruit He Prunes that it may bear more Fruit.....Abide in Me and I in You. As the branch cannot bear Fruit of Itself unless it Abides in the Vine neither can you unless you Abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the Branches, He who Abides in Me, and I in him, bears much Fruit for without Me you can do nothing. If Anyone does not Abide in Me, he is Cast Out as a Branch and is Withered and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are Burned. If you Abide in Me and My Words Abide in You, You will ask what you Desire and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is Glorified that you bear much Fruit so you will be My Disciple.

Ephesians 4:14-16=> That we should no longer be Children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting but Speaking the Truth in Love, May Grow Up in all things into Him who is the head --- Christ. And from Whom the Whole Body Joined and Knit Together by what every Joint Supplies, according to the Effective Working by which every part does it share, causes Growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Let's Look At Some Common Growth Killers:

1. Missing The Power of Small Action :

- There is Simply no substitute for Action – So Begin to Implement today no matter how small a step it may be.
- Throughout the Scriptures you will find the Power of God Connected to People who took Action.
- Anything that Sits Dies. In Action will always result in the Death of Something.
- The Bible Tells us to not despise the day of small beginnings – Everything Great Starts Small - Great Results Proceed from Little Causes.
- If we don't use what we Got we Lose what we got.



There Is A Story Found in the O.T. – About a Man Named Elijah who Out-ran the Kings Chariots & the Kings Horses:

- **Here Is The Principle** – Elijah Ran as Fast as He Could Run & When He Ran As Fast As He Could Run – He Didn't Run Out – He Ran Into What God Could Do & HE OUTRAN THE KING'S CHARIOT.

The Power Of Action is This:

- Whatever You Do in Life – Do It With All Your Might - Do It With Everything You Have – And when You Do It With Everything You Got – You Won't Run Out of What You Got – You Will Run Into a Supply that was there all the time waiting to come to your Aid – But was Never Released to Come to Your Aid until You Gave It Everything You Got.....That's The Power of Action!

2. _____ is a Growth Killer:

- By This We Mean – The Complete Separation From Others. A Form of Severe Punishment in Prison is “Solitary Confinement”. People are “Quarantined” when they have a contagious or infectious disease.
- The World has Rapidly Embraced Isolation – We have Replaced Neighborhoods and Gathering on the Front Porch with Gated Subdivisions and not even knowing who lives next door.....We have Replaced Family Meals Around the Table with Meals in a box or on the go.....We Have Replaced Quality Relationships (one to one – face to face) with Quantity (Facebook – Twitter – Text Messaging – Email).
- The Washington Post – “Americans are far more socially isolated today than they were two decades ago, and a sharply growing number of people say they have no one in whom they can confide, according to a comprehensive new evaluation of the decline of social ties in the United States. We know these close ties are what people depend on in bad times. We're not saying people are completely isolated. They may have 600 friends on Facebook.com and e-mail 25 people a day, but they are not discussing matters that are personally important.”



Scripture Support On The Strength Of Two:

Matthew 18:19-20=> Again I Say to You that If 2 of You Agree on Earth Concerning Anything that they Ask, it will be Done for them by My father in Heaven. For where 2 or 3 are gathered Together in My Name, I AM THERE in the Midst of them!

- **The Bible Says** – One Can Put a 1,000 to Flight Two Can Put 10,000 to Flight.

Proverbs 18:1=> A Man who Isolates Himself Seeks his own Desire. He Rages Against all Wise Judgment.

- OT – He that Separates Himself – The Recluse – He who is Estranged from Others.....
- David was a Man after God's own Heart – He was a Great Leader and Warrior who Defeated Goliath – Yet when left alone on the rooftop he cast his eyes on Bathsheba and committed adultery.
- Isolation Spiritually _____ us.
- According to this Scripture – An Isolated Man is a Foolish Man – He Rages Against all wise Judgment....The Bible Says in a Multitude of Counselors there is Strength.

Eccles 4:9-12=> Two can Accomplish More than Twice as Much as one, for the Results can be Much Better. If One Falls, the other Pulls him up; but if a man Falls when he is alone, he's in Trouble. Also, on a cold Night, Two under the same Blanket gain warmth from each other, but how can one be Warm Alone? And one Standing Alone can be Attacked and Defeated, but Two can stand back-to-back and Conquer; **THREE IS EVEN BETTER**, for a Triple Braided Cord is not easily Broken.

In Genesis After God Created Man – He Said “It Is Not God For Man To Be Alone”.

- God in His Infinite Wisdom Recognized that Isolation & Separation are Not God for Man and So God Created For Man A Woman to Help Him – Encourage Him – Strengthen Him – Stand By Him – Pick Him Up when He is Down.....Two are Stronger than One – Triple Braided Cord is Not Broken.
- Truth Is – No Man is Meant To Be An Island Unto Himself - Separation is a Tactic of the Enemy!
- No one can fulfill Their destiny alone. We are part of the Body of Christ and members one of another.....There are NO LONE RANGERS in the Church!



- The Strength Is In The Herd -

By Herd – I Mean Relationships – The Church – The Household of Faith – The Fellowship Of Believers:

- 1> Where 2 or 3 are Gathered Together in His Name – There He is in our Midst.
- 2> Where One Can Put a 1,000 to Flight – 2 Can Put 10,000...
- 3> Where we Confess our Faults to One Another & Pray For One Another that you may be healed.
- 4> Where Iron Sharpens Iron – Together We are Stronger – More Productive – More Fruitful.

Relationships are God's way of bringing the _____ and _____ we lack into our lives, ministries, & jobs.

- Satan's Strategy is to Lie to You that You Don't Need Other People – Other People Don't Need You - You Can Make It On Your Own – Doing Your Own Thing so HE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.....

Question – How Do A Tribe of Lions Attack Water Buffalo?

- The Lions Know They Are No Match For The Strength of The Herd So They Try To Separate & Isolate one From the Herd and Move In for the Kill – This is Exactly the Enemies Strategy!
- The Devil Knows if He Can Isolate You From the Herd of Believers – The Local Church – He has a Better Opportunity to Take Advantage of Your Life – Your Marriage – Your Family.



I Corinthians 12:14-27=> Turn with Me To.....

- Paul Said to the Church at Ephesus – He Gave Some “APEPT” for the Edifying of the Body of Christ , till we All Come to the Unity of the Faith so that we are No Longer Like Children Tossed around but Rather Grow Up in All Things – And From whom the Whole Body is Joined & Knit Together by What Every Joint Supplies and Each Part in Their Each Own Special Way helps the Other Parts & Causes Growth & the Whole Body is Health – Growing & Full of Love!
- Listen To These Words – He Uses “Whole Body, Joined, Knit Together, Every Joint Supplies – What Is This Relationship – This is Relationship and It is Healthy and Keeps us Stronger!

_____ and _____ are Probably the Two of the Greatest Contributors to Isolation.

10-Mistakes Fatigue Will Create:

1. Fatigue Makes Mountains You Are Facing.....Appear Bigger and The Valley's Appear Deeper...
2. Fatigue Causes You To Lose Your Spiritual Priorities – Too Tired To Seek First – Too Distracted – Too Busy – Too Offended – The Things of God are No Longer Priority.
3. Fatigue Magnifies the Pain of Offenses.....I Was Wronged – I Was Mistreated.
4. Fatigue Births Impatience with Others & Magnifies the Flaws in the Those You Love Most.
5. Fatigue Creates An Obsession With Immediate Results Instead of the Protocol – The Christ-Like Integrity and Character for Achieving Them.....
6. Fatigue Turns Your Focus to Short-Term Goals Rather Than Long-Term Goals.....
7. Fatigue Dissolves Constraints and Unleashes Destructive Words – Idle Words – Hurtful Words.
8. Fatigue Makes You Unwilling to Invest Time to Plan Ahead.....Faith Prepares!
 - Fatigue Tells You It's Never Going To Change so There is No Reason To Prepare!
9. Fatigue Feeds Selfishness & Self-Absorption and Fatigue Focus on Your Own Mistakes.....
10. Fatigue Weakens Your Courage to Pursue Worthwhile Dreams.....

Isaiah 40:28-31=> Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard? The Everlasting God – The Lord the Creator of the Ends of the Earth – Neither Faiths nor is Weary. He Gives Power to the Weak and to those who have no Might He Increases Strength. Even the Youths shall Faint and Be Weary, and the Young Men Shall Utterly Fall – But Those that WAIT on the Lord – SHALL RENEW their Strength – They Shall Mount up with Wings Like the Eagles – They Shall Run and Not Be Weary – They Shall Walk and Not Faint.

Answer To Blanks – Isolation, Weakens, Gifts, Talents, Fatigue, Fear

7-Ways to Nurture & Grow God-Joined Relationships:

1 – **Daily Thank God for Covenant Relationships:**

- You are Not Called to Everybody but you are called to Somebody. Strengthen, Encourage, & Sharpen Them.
- Pray For Them – Speak Life – Speak Faith – Together you are Stronger.

2 – **Make & Keep Close a God-Joined Relationship List:**

- This List will help Serve as a Great Prayer Focus & Reminder to Pray & Weekly Communicate with those God has joined you to.
- Stay Close To Them – Keep their Vision before you – Keep what they are believing God for close to you.

3 – **Develop Consistency in your Communication:**

- Send Notes & Make Calls to Let them Know How Much You Appreciate them.
- Activate Relationships, Initiate Relationships, & Renew Relationships – Don't Procrastinate but Strengthen By Communicating with those God Has Joined you to!

4 – **Follow the Leading of the Holy Spirit in Your Relationships:**

- How Many Times has Someone Called You to say – Just Had you on my Heart and Wanted to Know What a Blessing You are to Me. I've Been Praying For You.
- ASK THE LORD TODAY – How can I Encourage them – What's a Word in Due Season for me to speak to them.
- Let the Holy Ghost Direct You in networking with laborers you know that can help be a blessing to Cross-Roads Ministry.

5 – **Guard Your Relationships:**

- Never Forget the Enemy Loves to Sow Discord – Never Forget the Enemy is the Accuser of the Brethren.
- Remember This – He Will Not Sit Back & Sit Idle with What God has Joined Together. He Wants To Lie, Deceive, Steal, & Divide what God Joins.
- If You haven't Heard from a Friend in a while – Call Them, Write Them or Go See Them - Don't Let the Devil Lie to You they are too Busy & Don't Have Time.
- WE MAKE TIME FOR WHAT GOD-JOINS TOGETHER – Guard What God has Joined Together.

6 – **Sow into Your Relationships:**

- Plant Seeds of Love, Encouragement, & Gifts into People who have Been Given to you by the Lord.
- YOU SEE – Relationships that are Always Called upon only when "Something is Needed" oftentimes end up one-sided Relationships.
- Be Sensitive To Your Friends & Relationships – MONITOR YOUR COMMUNICATION
- Everyone of us need a Friendly Call of Encouragement Simply Saying – I Believe in You – You are Valuable to the Kingdom and I just wanted to Check on you.
- GOD-JOINED RELATIONSHIPS increase the Fruit in your Life!

7 – **Be Sensitive to Your Relationships:**

- Make Yourself Available & Be Sensitive to their Needs of those God has Put into your life.
 - **Prov 17:17**=> says that "A Friend is Born for the time of Adversity...."
=> True Covenant Relationships Rally in Times of Need.
=> True Covenant Relationships Understand their Role in times of Need.
 - NEVER FORGET – The Only Thing Going to Heaven is People. The Only Thing that Has Eternal Value is People!
 - Guard – Protect – Invest – Activate – Renew Your God Joined Relationships.
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- LIST OF GOD-JOINED CIRCLE OF COMPANIONS -

1. **Intercessor** – You Need Someone to Pray for you. Without God’s Favor, Strength, Wisdom, and Blessing, you can do nothing of value.
2. **Listener** – Everyone needs a friendly ear – to Confide in, vent to, and bounce ideas off.
3. **Encourager** – Even People with great attitudes sometimes get discouraged. Encouragement is like oxygen to the soul.
4. **Creator** – Creative people stretch your mind, challenge your direction, increase your vision, and multiply your gifts!
5. **Discerner** – No matter how good you are, you will always miss some details when making decisions. Partner with people who will see what you don’t!
6. **Giver** – Your life should be focused on giving to others. But to keep giving, you will also need to have your “Tank” filled. Connect with someone who loves you unconditionally.
7. **Defender** – Everyone wants people in his corner. But sometimes you need more. On the days when you’re too weary to fight your own battles, having someone who will step in the ring for you is a real blessing.
8. **Implementer** – Of all the individuals, implementers are my type of people. Why are implementers so important? Because after all has been said and done, more will have been said than done. Implementers are self starters and door closers.
9. **Celebrator** – When you accomplish your goals, don’t just move on. Take a moment to celebrate. Do it with the people who helped you win.
10. **Resourcer** – God given assignments are always much bigger and greater than what we could accomplish on our own. We all need people who can help us accomplish our God given destiny!
11. **Sponsor** – You can’t pick your sponsor; he has to pick you. Pray for God to put someone in your life who will believe in you and use his influence to help you along!
12. **Thinker** – Some People are talented at solving problems. Everybody needs someone who can do that! Someone who always points you to the solution not problem.
13. **Networker** – It has been said you are five people away from contacting anyone in the world. Find a good networker and you’re only two away.
14. **Mentor** – No Matter how advanced you are in your leadership, others ahead of you can help you along the way.
15. **Protégé** – If you have leadership ability, you’ve not been given it to hoard for yourself. Find the right person to pour your life into.