



HOME RUN Devotional #16- CONNECT

By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This week we are focusing on winning with others. One of the key points for this week is the fact that there are two things that last forever: **The Word of God (His Promises) and people**. We were designed to live in relationship with others. There are introverts and extroverts, type A people and type B people, and people who have sanguine, choleric, melancholic or phlegmatic personalities. No matter what personality we have, there is one thing that is true. We are wired for connection! All of us have one thing in common, we need other people! According to University of Chicago Psychologist Dr. John T Cacioppo, "Humans have a need to be affirmed up close and personal." God knew this from the beginning, **Genesis 2:18** says, **Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."** We need to begin focusing on what we will be doing for all eternity, living in community with others! The only way we can do this is to connect with others. Dr. Cacioppo also shared research that "People who go to church regularly live longer than non-church goers." That's an impressive point, but sometimes we stay away from church because people "get on our nerves", or "annoy us" or they have hurt us. 1 Peter 4:8 (NLT) says, "**Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.**" This means we have no excuse. We need others, and in all actuality we will be with people for all eternity, so let's begin doing now what we will be doing for all eternity, loving God and loving others.

Question for today: What are you doing to build relationships with others?

Verses to look up: I Corinthians 3:7-9, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Prayer for this week: Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day! A day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don't see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen