



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“Timber”

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Verse for the week: Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT) “A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”

Have you ever watched a lumberjack cutting down a tree and then yell “TIMBERRRRRRR?” They yell it for safety purposes so that people will be out of harm’s way when the tree falls. This past Christmas Eve, we had a tree come down but there wasn’t any time to yell “TIMBERRRRRR!” The tree was not outside, it was our Christmas tree and it came crashing down while we had guests over celebrating the holiday. We all saw it fall and there was nothing we could do. It was a very large tree.... Ornaments, pine needles, and water went flying everywhere. This was not the peaceful moment with friends that we had anticipated. We quickly sprang into action and got the tree standing up again, but there was no way that it was going to be the beautifully decorated tree that it was before. The lights were all discombobulated and the tree would not stand straight up, so we made the decision to take it all down and put the tree outside. Everyone jumped in and began to take ornaments and lights from the tree, and within 30 minutes the tree was out back, the water was cleaned up and the needles vacuumed up. How did we accomplish it so quickly? Team work! Helen Keller said, *“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”* That is a very true statement. Team work is needed in families, in our churches, in our communities, at our places of employment, in sports, etc. While I was young, my mother would gather us together and pull out some tooth picks. She would show how one was easily broken but if she put them all together it was harder to break them. As a single mother, she knew the importance of team work to survive. God created us to be relational individuals who would work together. Way back in the beginning of the Bible, He said in **Genesis 2:18 (NLT)**, **“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”**

We may not always get along together and we may not always like those around us, but team work will help us accomplish more. Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha, an author from Nigeria, writes, *“Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results.”* If you want to achieve uncommon results, come together with those that you live with, work with, and worship with to see things accomplished. When you do, you can look back with an attitude of gratitude and be thankful for those that are a part of your team.

Question to ask yourself: In what ways are you working with or working against those on your team?

Quote: *“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”* --Henry Ford