

## **Companions in the Lord**

*But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace  
with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

***2 Tim. 2:22***

**1. Gathered often to enjoy His presence**

**Matthew 18:20**

For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

**2. Flee and pursue together**

**2 Timothy 2:22**

But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**3. Lift up one another**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up!

**4. Embolden one another to speak**

**Acts 4:13**

And as they beheld the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated men and laymen, they marveled and they recognized them, that they had been with Jesus.

# Companions in the Lord

When Jesus departed from Jerusalem to Galilee of the Gentiles, the Bible says that He was a great light rising up in darkness. He did not appear to those in Jerusalem, He did not appear to those in the temple, but He appeared to those in Galilee of the Gentiles. While He was appearing as the great light, He came to two brothers, Peter and Andrew, as they were fishing. Immediately, He called them to follow Him. "Come after Me," He said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (v. 19). It does not say that Jesus appeared to one brother, but that He appeared to two. We need to realize that we cannot follow Jesus by ourselves. We need others to be our companions. According to the principle, we do not follow Jesus by ourselves; we need company. After the Lord called Peter and Andrew, He called another two brothers, James and John. The principle of the Body is two by two, not one by one. To follow Jesus is a matter of the Body. It is not an individual matter but a corporate matter.<sup>1</sup>

## Gather often to enjoy His presence

In Matthew 18:20 the Lord said, "For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." His presence here refers to His presence in the meeting. The Lord's presence with an individual and His presence in the meeting are two different things. Some only know the Lord's presence as individuals. But this knowledge is insufficient. The more compelling and powerful presence is experienced only in the meeting; we cannot experience such a presence individually. Although individually we can have the Lord's presence, this presence is never as great or as powerful as His presence in the meetings. But when we are among the brothers and sisters we can touch a presence which we could not otherwise experience as individuals. We have to learn to meet together with the brothers and sisters because it is in the meeting that we experience the Lord's special presence. This is a tremendous blessing. This presence can never be felt by us as individuals. It is impossible to find a "self-taught" Christian who can experience this kind of powerful presence of the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

## Flee and pursue together

The best way to have spiritual growth and receive spiritual benefit is to find a few brothers and sisters to be our spiritual companions so that we can open to one another,

seek one another, help one another, and solve one another's problems in all spiritual things. On one hand, we should regularly seek the Lord on our own, and on the other hand, with a pure heart we should frequently have open fellowship with a few brothers and sisters. We would be blessed if we would fellowship concerning our weaknesses or problems, concerning matters that we cannot overcome, and concerning matters that cause us to fall. We often cannot overcome a certain sin alone, but if we are willing to fellowship about it, the sin will be overcome. This is quite marvelous.

**If one stands by himself, he will possibly be captured by the by the ene-**

Suppose a young brother is having trouble understanding the Lord's leading concerning a certain matter. He can invite a few brothers over and fellowship with them about the problem. From our experience we know that he can become clear even while he is speaking. If he does not fellowship, he will not be able to understand the Lord's leading, but once he begins to speak, he often will become clear before the brothers even respond. The brothers have helped him, because without them, he would have no one to fellowship with, and he would not become clear. It is because he has people to fellowship with that he is able to understand the Lord's leading.<sup>5</sup>

## Lift up one another

Ecclesiastes 4:10 says that companions can pick each other up when they fall. This is a key function of our spiritual companions. In daily life believers face many obstacles and challenges, and they may fail. But if they do, their companion can restore them and lift them up. In this way, companions function to sustain us in our daily Christian pursuit.

Young people need at least one companion. You must consider before the Lord whether you have a real companion in pursuing the Lord. Joshua could have said that Caleb was his companion, and Caleb could have said that Joshua was his companion. However, it is better to have three or four companions. Because of these perilous times, we need more companions. If we have four companions to support us from each direction, we will not fall, regardless of what storm may come. If one stands by himself, he will possibly be captured by the enemy. It is best for four or five young ones to come together as companions. Let the young brothers be com-

## Key Verses

- 2 Timothy 2:22* But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- Matthew 18:20* For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10* Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up!

panions to one another, and let the young sisters be companions to one another.<sup>6</sup>

### **Embolden one another to speak**

What do companions do when they get together? They need to pray. Prayer strengthens their spirit. Prayer will move the Lord to work. Prayer will give them the guidance on how to go on with the Lord.

We like to talk; we do not like to pray. We need to develop a habit of praying. Daniel prayed three times a day kneeling before God. That was his habit. Therefore, young people should pray together to develop such a holy habit. If the young people will pray together, they will afford the Lord a chance to perfect them for the work of the ministry and for the building up of the church.

They should research the things concerning Christ and the church. When a group comes together, one brother may ask the others if they can speak something concerning the assurance of salvation. In this way, through fellowshiping and speaking the points to one another, they will be equipped to speak to their friends, classmates, roommates, and relatives.<sup>7</sup>

We should look for three kinds of companions. The first kind should be those who are at our spiritual level. This kind of friend is for mutual help—we can help him, and he can help us. The second kind should be more experienced in the Lord; he can lead us. We need to listen to such a one and receive his help, be restricted by him, and even be subject to him. I believe that Paul was such a companion to Timothy and to Titus; Paul was like their father. For this reason, Timothy and Titus had to learn submission, and they had to subject themselves to his authority (1 Tim. 1:1-2; Titus 1:4). We should also look for this kind of companion. The third kind of companion should be one who is younger and weaker. We should render him help and lead him like a big brother leading his younger siblings. We should have these three kinds of companions. It is best for every believer to have two companions who are at the same level, a companion who is younger, and a companion who is older.<sup>8</sup>

### **Assignment**

**Take one of your companions and speak to a friend or relative one of the topics from the Bible study that was particularly impactful to you. Pray with your companion before you go.**

### **Prayer Assignment**

**Ask the Lord to lead you to the companions He has chosen for you. Pray specifically for some peers, a more experienced one, and a less experienced one.**

## Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
2 Timothy 2:22	Ecclesiastes 4:9-10	Ecclesiastes 4:11-12	Matthew 18:20	Mark 6:7	Philippians 2:19- 20	Ephesians 3:17-18

## Weekly Memorization Verses

### **Matthew 18:20**

For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

### **2 Timothy 2:22**

But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.