

Support & Victory

Two Are Better Than One

Pastor George Stahnke, 11/21/2004

Have you ever felt beaten down? Ever wished that you could have more victory in your life and experience less of the agony of defeat? Have you ever asked yourself, is there some way to turn this situation around? There is a good answer to your questions! Interring into a healthy mutually supportive relationships is one of the keys.

Support: To bear the weight of, especially from below. To hold in position so as to keep from falling, sinking, or slipping. To be capable of bearing; withstand: "His flaw'd heart... too weak the conflict to support" (Shakespeare). To keep from weakening or failing; strengthen: *The letter supported him in his grief.* To provide for or maintain, by supplying with money or necessities.

Synonyms: *support, uphold, back, advocate, champion*

These verbs mean to give aid or encouragement to a person or cause.

- To *uphold* is to maintain or affirm in the face of a challenge or strong opposition.
- *Back* suggests material or moral support intended to contribute to or assure success.
- To *champion* is to fight for one that is under attack or is unable to act in its own behalf.

—The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

Moses, Aaron and Hur

Exodus 17:8—13 (NASB) ⁸Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. ⁹So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. ¹³So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.



Two are better than one

Ecclesiastes 4:9—12 (NASB) ⁹Two 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*? ¹²And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not quickly torn apart.

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Ecclesiastes 4:9—12 (NLT) ⁹Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. ¹¹And on a cold night, two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone? ¹²A 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.

Jonathan and his armor bearer

1 Samuel 14:6—14 (NIV) ⁶Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, “Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.” ⁷“Do all that you have in mind,” his armor-bearer said. “Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.” ⁸Jonathan said, “Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. ⁹If they say to us, ‘Wait there until we come to you,’ we will stay where we are and not go up to them. ¹⁰But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands.” ¹¹So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. “Look!” said the Philistines. “The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in.” ¹²The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, “Come up to us and we’ll teach you a lesson.” So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, “Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.” ¹³Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. ¹⁴In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.

Jesus sent them out in pairs

Mark 6:7 (NASB) ⁷And He summoned* the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;

Luke 10:1 (NASB) ¹Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

No man should be alone when he opposes Satan. The church and the ministry of the Word were instituted for this purpose, that hands may be joined together and one may help another. If the prayer of one doesn't help, the prayer of another will.

—Martin Luther, "Martin Luther--The Early Years," Christian History, no. 34.