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Leadership 105

Lesson 6 Homework “What Now?” Pg. 264

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During the course of the past 14 years I had the privilege to partake and enjoy the benefits of a good Christian community if the form of my former church Echoes of Love. It was a smaller ministry ranging between 100-125 members. Everyone knew each other names as well as the names of their kids. If you were not in service on Sunday morning chances were that someone would be reaching out to you through a phone call or social media to see if you were alright. I recall an instance where we were on vacation for a couple of weeks and many in the body did not know. We fielded a few phone calls over the later part of our vacation. The Wednesday night bible study was consistently attended by a group not exceeding 25.

God recently revealed to us that our season at Echoes of Love was complete. This was hard for us to accept as we have fellowshipped there for 14 years. As we prayed for God to direct us on our next step the opportunity to attend Leadership University presented itself. It has been an adjustment for us just in the difference in the size of the ministry. Also due to the recent direction and the fact that we are in the middle of a pandemic, we have not had the opportunity to join a P12. In talking with others I have come to understand that the P12 groups are a way for relationships to be established and built. They are an avenue of encouraging, supporting, strengthening and healing the brethren. In the instances where life happens and one needs support who can one turn to? They can turn to a brother or sister in their P12 because trust has been established.

In the verses of Thessalonians 5:11,14, we are encouraged and reminded to comfort and edify the brethren and to warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, and be patient with all. Through small groups we can establish relationships with new believers and those who have been walking with the Lord for some time. These relationships will help all at different times in life and through different situations and issues. They help solidify our faith because someone will be there with you to walk through whatever obstacle you are facing. The following scripture reminds me of that.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 MSG “It’s better to have a partner than to go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, But if there’s no one to help, tough!...By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”

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