

With a Little Help From My Friends

John 11:43-44 (NLT) Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

- ✓ Jesus gives us life – but **community** helps us live it.
- ✓ Salvation may be personal – but transformation is always **relational**.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

The Power of Community...

1. **Confirms** what God is doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

- ✓ Community doesn’t just see you – it **calls you up**.

2. **Reveals** what you can’t see.

Hebrews 3:13 (NLT) You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

- ✓ We don’t need more information – we just need some honest **friends**.

3. **Heals** what you’ve been hiding.

1 John 1:7 (NLT) But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

James 5:16 (NLT) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

- ✓ What you hide keeps you **bound** – what you reveal gets you healed.

4. **Unlocks** what you didn't know was in you.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- ✓ Some of what God puts in us won't show up until **someone** pulls it out of us.
- ✓ Community isn't optional – it's God's strategy for sustained **growth**.