

Stronger Together – Part 2

“Two Are Better Than One”

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1 Samuel 23:16–18 (NKJV)

“Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

And he said to him, ‘Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.’ So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.”

Message Version:

“Jonathan, Saul’s son, visited David at Horesh and encouraged him in God. He said, ‘Don’t despair. My father Saul can’t lay a hand on you. You will be Israel’s king, and I’ll be right at your side to help.’ ... Then the two of them made a covenant before God.”

Main Idea:

We are stronger together.

Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

David might have been chosen by God, but he still needed someone by his side. Even the strongest warriors need encouragement.

Four Truths About Godly Friendship

1. Friends visit each other.

“Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods...”

- Jonathan didn’t wait for David to come to him—he went *to* David.
- Real friendship *shows up*, especially when things are hard.
- Relationships are risky—but worth visiting.

Sometimes all someone needs is your presence, not your advice.

2. Friends encourage each other.

“Jonathan... encouraged him in God.”

- Encouragement means putting courage *in* someone.

- Jonathan didn't just say, "You'll be okay." He reminded David of *who God is*.
- Real encouragement lifts our eyes from fear to faith.

Encouragers speak to your soul, not just your situation.

3. Friends speak truth to each other.

"You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you."

- Jonathan prophesied over David's life—he reminded him of God's promise.
- Friends who love you don't just agree with you—they *align with God* in your life.
- They speak truth, hope, and destiny.

A real friend sides with God's purpose for you.

4. Friends reaffirm their commitment.

"So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord."

- Friendship takes intentional renewal.
- They didn't let distance or danger break their bond.
- They said, "We're in this together—before God."

What Encouragers Do (Practical Takeaway)

Here are **5 habits of encouragers**—things we can all learn:

1. **Listen well.** Hear your friend's heart before you speak.
2. **Focus on your friend.** Set aside your own agenda.
3. **Notice people.** Say, "I see you." It's powerful.
4. **Be intentional.** Decide to speak hope into someone every day.
5. **Don't discriminate.** Encourage people whether they're up, down, or somewhere in the middle.

7 Things That Damage Friendships

Sometimes it's not what we do right, but what we must stop doing.

1. Criticizing
2. Comparing
3. Controlling

4. Competing
5. Complaining
6. Jealousy (*can't celebrate others*)
7. Unforgiveness

I'm not here to compete; I'm here to complete.

Closing Thought:

David eventually became king.

But before the throne, he had *Jonathan*—a loyal friend who strengthened him in God.

Jonathan may not have sat on the throne, but he helped David get there.

He was *a brother, an encourager*, and a man who showed that *we are stronger together*.

Closing Verse:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."

—Ecclesiastes 4:9