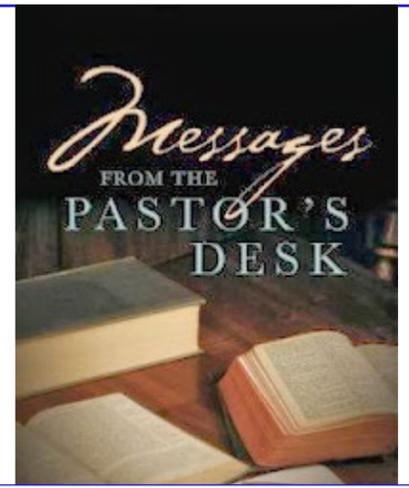




# Abundant Harvest Lift



## The Power of Sticking Together

“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.” - (Idowu Koyenikan) ... but just look what they can do when they stick together.”



**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** - Two [are] better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

Sticking together is not because we all look alike or we all talk alike. We stick together because we believe alike. We believe it together, and we are one in Christ because of what we believe.

**Matthew 18:20**—For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them

**Ecclesiastes 4:12**—Msg Bible -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.

When people stick together, they support and help each other—they stay close to each other. They have the other's back. They encourage and pray for one another. There's power in numbers. As an example, Living in the arctic has its challenges—temperatures around -22 degrees and winds up to 125mph, just to name a couple. The male Emperor Penguins must face these challenges in addition to no shelter or feeding while protecting their chicks, who have yet to hatch from their eggs. What is the secret to their survival, you may ask? **Sticking together.**

While the female Emperor Penguins go on a search for food (which lasts several months), the male penguins are left to care for their unhatched chicks. During this time, the males will huddle together, often by the thousands, in order to stay warm. The penguins shift positions periodically, taking turns on the outside of the huddle to face the brunt of the harsh conditions. These penguins huddle together in order to survive.

Although we do not have to face this kind of weather, research shows us that individuals who have strong social relationships are 50% less likely to die. So, like the penguins, it is crucial that we stick together during life's roughest "storms."

Not only can social relationships lengthen your lifespan, but research states they can also provide a sense of belonging, increased sense of self-worth, and a feeling of security. So, I think the penguins are on to something here—we need each other. You will need other people and you will need to be that other person to someone else. There's power in **us** sticking together! No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.

**Psalms 133:1** - Behold, how good and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity!

## Prayers of Faith

### **For Family:**

*Father, I thank you that Christ is the center of our home. Thank you that your wings of protection are around each family member—including our grandchildren. Thank you that our family is growing together in the wonderful ways of God. Our marriage is strong and our relationship is one of love and mutual understanding. The children are blessed as they are trained up and nurtured in the ways of the Lord. I am grateful that you are a healing God and that we are all strong, with sound minds and healthy bodies. Thank you again, that we lack no good thing and we are blessed.*

### **For Business:**

*I am grateful to you for granting me the grace, wisdom, and means to run this business. I have faith in your guidance as I ask you to give me the strength to work skillfully and make my business prosperous and abundant. I know you will reveal new opportunities and areas for expansion and development. Bless this business, and help it grow, flourish, and create great livelihood and growth for all those involved as we all purpose to financially support your kingdom here on earth.*

Published by Minister LorRe Solinger

# The Importance of Exercising our Faith in a Troubling Season

***Faith is like a muscle – if it is not used, it will atrophy.***

Some of us spend time every day exercising certain muscles that we want to develop. You say, “I haven’t run for a week, and I feel the difference.” Similarly, if a week goes by without exercising faith, you will notice the difference. The longer you go without using faith, the greater the danger that you will forget how to use faith altogether.

If you have ever broken a leg and been unable to use it for a time, you will know that you need to work hard to rebuild the muscle that has been weakened by prolonged inactivity. The physiotherapist will work with you to rebuild what has been lost through lack of use.

So, faith is like a muscle and needs to be exercised.

Faith is the gift of God. It is not of ourselves; we receive it from him. It is the special work of the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to who Jesus is and to show us our need of him and to create within us the capacity to trust him. He gives you a new heart, the gift of faith.

But Jesus’ question in Luke 8:25 makes it clear that you can have this gift of faith and never use it. “*Where is your faith?*” he asks the disciples, after a storm blew up as they were rowing across the lake. Jesus had been asleep in the back of the boat, and the disciples panicked! But Jesus awakens, calms the storm, and then asks, “Where is your faith?” In other words, “Why aren’t you exercising the faith I have given to you?”

## **Faith Trusts Intentionally in the Goodness of God**

I want to emphasize this word *intentionally*. Faith is not something that works automatically.

A lot of people have the idea that faith is like a thermostat, that it works automatically. We feel that if we have faith, then when some great crisis comes, our faith should click in automatically.

If faith worked on automatic, then it would have clicked in when the storm blew up on the lake, and the disciples would never have been in difficulty.

But when Jesus asks them, “Where is your faith?” his question makes it very clear that faith works on manual. You have to put it into operation. When that happens, the world will begin to wonder what makes you different.

## **The Prescription for Faith**

What is the prescription for the person whose doubts arise from not exercising faith? There is only one answer to this condition, and that is faith comes by hearing the Word of God, over and over again.

Some of us have been splashing around in the shallows of faith for too long, and more than anything else you need a man or woman-sized challenge that is going to stretch you beyond your limits, push you outside your comfort zone, and give you something in which you need to trust God like you never did before!

Christ asks, “Where is your faith?” If your answer is, “Not being exercised,” then it is time for you to ask the question, “Lord what do you want me to do?”



Christ calls us out of our depth. He invites us to launch out into the deep. The storm may be raging, but if you are where Christ has called you to be, and you are doing what he called you to do, he will bring you through it by faith.

**If you go to YouTube and go to Lift Channel, you’ll be able to see the Sunday Service at 9:30am. There are also numerous other former broadcasts that I know you will enjoy viewing**

## **Upcoming Events**

### August

- 14-15 Virtual Conference. (Fri 6:30pm) Saturday 9:am
- 21 Friday Night Live for **Teens Friday** @ 6pm on Zoom
- 22 Man Cave Zoom Webinar Saturday @ 9am
- 29 Marriage Factory Engagement (*Details to be announced*)
- 29 DDD Zoom Room on **Saturday** @ 6pm
- 30 +Quarterly Meet and Greet Webinar for New Members 11am
- Every Thursdays**—Steps to Victory 7pm—Call in on line 701-801-9686



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