



In this series we have been learning about many dimensions to navigating life. I appreciate that my wife add it to our understanding last week with a tremendous message on the conquerors mindset.

One of my assignments in ministry is to present the word of God in a way that you can use it for your every day life. That's part of the basis for this series, navigate how to successfully journey through life and these times.

Today we're going to get into something that's very much a part of our times, and that is the impact of social media and something called algorithms. Let me say, this is not going to be deep, but it won't be a typical Sermon. You know that we don't do typical sermons.

Going to provide insight and understanding into it people are dealing with every day. So don't be startled at some of the terms I'm going to use, because I'm going to explain it. Only thing I need you to do is pay attention and I guarantee you God will give you understanding.

We're going to take a look at systems that lead to failure and success. Romans 12 verse two says "And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."



NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

Ecclesiastes 4:9

*Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But **woe to him who is alone** when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And **a threefold cord is not quickly broken.***

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Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

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NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

**THE POWER OF
TOGETHER**

Better
Bigger
Braver
Bolder

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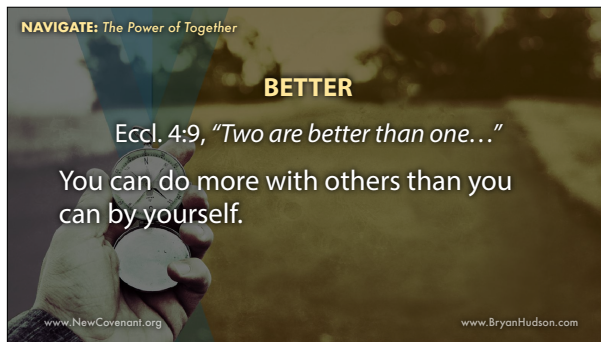
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It is difficult to navigate alone. In some situations, it is impossible to navigate alone. Part of God's design for humans is to function in family and community. After God created Adam he said, "It is not good for man to be alone." He spoke about male/female relationship and multiplication of people, but the principle is still true for all people.

Even God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There many benefits of the Power of Together:

We are going to talk about the power of Together using four words:

Better, Bigger, Braver, and Bolder



You can do more with others than you can by yourself. Of course, it depends on who you are working with. We all have had the experience of working with someone who was not committed to working, so that situation became a drag.

It is not that you can't get things done by yourself. It is that you can do better, in terms of quality and quality with others. When you watch a blockbuster movie, you'll notice that the credits at the end go on for several minutes showing names upon names of people. A major film with one or two stars still has hundreds of people making it happen.

Don't only think of finding someone to work with you, think about who you can empower. This will make both of your better. Think about connecting with people of similar passion and interest as yourself.

Watch video of fisherman with a big fish on the hook. He could not land it by himself (SHOW VIDEO)

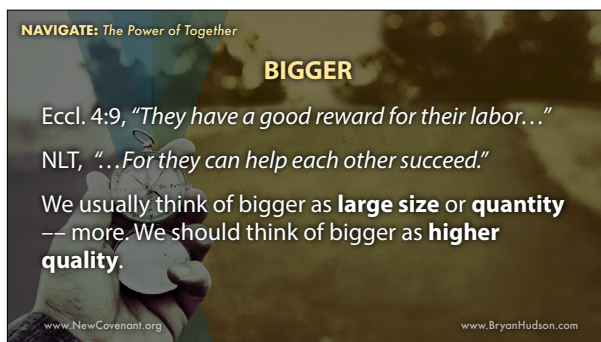


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Watch video of fisherman with a big fish on the hook. He could not land it by himself (SHOW VIDEO)



Those of us who drove cars in the 1970's know about bigger cars! Folks today have no idea! We drove, or wished we were driving, big cars — also called "Land Yachts." There were cars so long that you could get lost in the trunk. I rented a Town Car on a trip to California in the early 1990's. I brought my golf clubs. When some golf balls fell out of my bag, I had to climb all the way in the trunk to get them from the corner.

When we were in high school, my friend's father had a car we called a "Deuce and a Quarter" which was a Buick Electra 225. He

would put 2 or 3 guys in the trunk to go to the drive in theatre.

We look back with fondness nostalgia on those cars, but compared to cars today, those cars were a waste of time and space--they handled poorly and most of them lacked power. Yes, they were smooth, as long as turning, driving in bad weather, and stopping was not important.

People often look for things that are big and shiny, rather than recognizing quality, which may come in a small package.

“For if they fall, one will lift up his companion...” When we fall--and we all fall--you can't just pick yourself up if there was something lacking inside of you that made you fall.\

“But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up...” You don't want to go around dissing people and burning bridges, because you are going to need a bridge one day. I heard this saying:

“Take care of people when you are on your way up, because you will need people when you are on your way down”

The best way to become bigger is to connect with “big” people. These are people who know more than you, are more skilled than you, and are willing to help you. I'm not talking about “big headed,” but people who genuinely know stuff and demonstrate it all the time.

The mistake a lot of people make feeling intimidated by people like that, trying to cut them down to their own size, or letting envy and jealousy ruin an opportunity to grow.

The worse thing you can do is not pay attention and not follow instructions.



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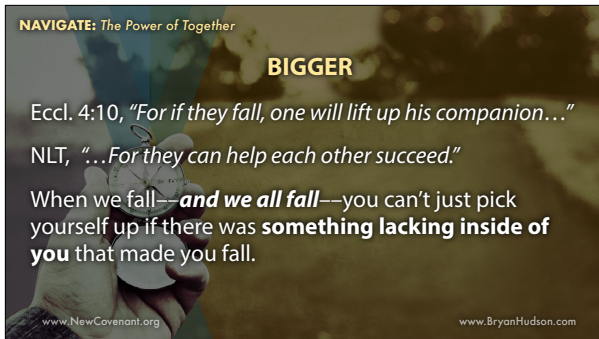
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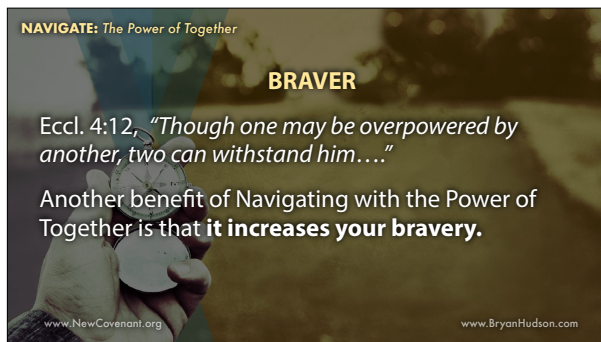
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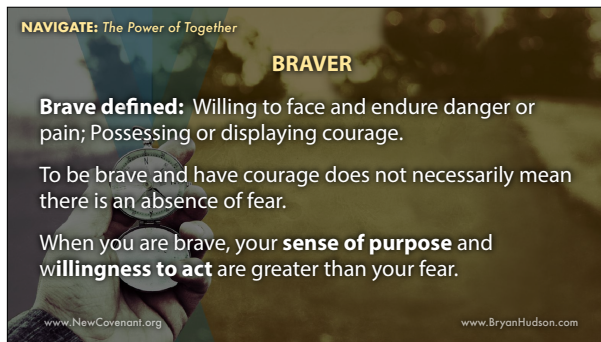
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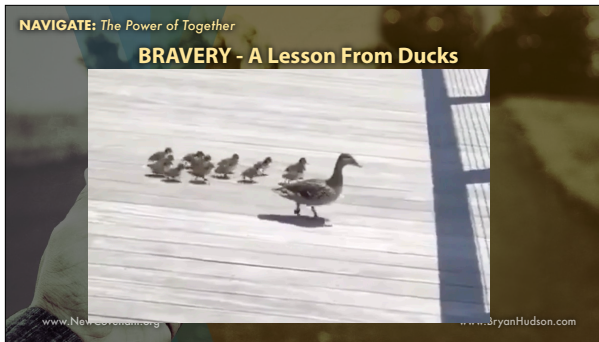
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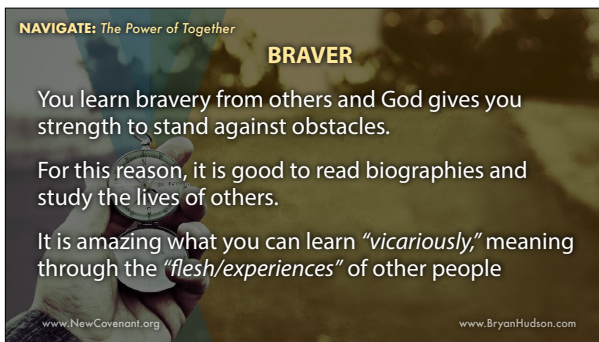
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NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

Example of Courage by Frederick Douglass

Excerpts from Douglass autobiography:

Edward Covey, [a slave owner] who was known in the area for two things: as the area's “n—— breaker” and as “A professor of religion—a pious soul—a member and a class-leader in the Methodist church.”

He had such a fierce reputation that his household was known among slaves as the worst in the area. Yet, as Douglass notes, “There was not a man any where who made higher professions of religion, or was more active in revivals—more attentive to the [Bible] classes... prayer and preaching meetings...”

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Despite his professed religious piety,...Douglass confesses that witnessing this inhuman tyranny may have been the lowest point in his life for he contemplated killing Covey and ending his own life. Because Covey's farm was located on Chesapeake Bay, Douglass often saw ships from all around the world. The sight of their billowing white sails continually renewed his hope for an eventual escape.

One hot day in August, Douglass collapsed from fatigue, an event which led to matters that changed his life. Covey came by, kicked him, and gave him a beating.

A few days later, however, Covey pounced on him. This time, Douglass decided to physically resist. In the ensuing fight, Douglass gained the upper hand, and, after nearly two hours of wrestling and struggling, Covey finally gave up. Douglass recalls:

"Covey at length let me go, puffing and blowing at a great rate, saying that if I had not resisted, he would not have whipped me half so much. The truth was, that he had not whipped me at all."

Douglass thinks that because Covey enjoyed a widespread reputation for being the region's best slave breaker, it provided him with plenty of free labor, and he didn't want to punish Douglass any further because doing so would be an admission of his having lost a physical fight. For the rest of Douglass' stay, Covey didn't touch him again.

Douglass recalls: "This battle with Mr. Covey was the turning-point in my career as a slave. It rekindled the few expiring embers of freedom, and revived within me a sense of my own manhood. It recalled the departed self-confidence, and inspired me again with a determination to be free."

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"... Between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference — so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked. To be the friend of the one, is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ."

April 28, 1845, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave,

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NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

BOLDER

A **threefold cord** is like a rope. You know that a rope is comprised of strands that are bound and twisted together.

A single strand, like a single person, can be easily broken.

Multiple strands represent multiple people along with the presence and power of God.

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NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

BOLDER

Boldness is a **lack of hesitation** in the face of risk or danger.

While bravery and courage are a **mindset**,
Boldness is **action**

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BOLDER

When God wanted to prepare Israel to possess the Promised Land, he first sent 12 spies over so the people could learn about their collective sense of bravery and boldness.

We learned that 10 of the men who went were neither brave nor bold. Their mindset adversely affected all the people

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BOLDER

1 Samuel 13:31, "**We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); **and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.**"

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BOLDER

Only Joshua and Caleb possessed the courage and boldness to process the land.

1 Samuel 13:30, *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for **we are well able to overcome it.**"*

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NAVIGATE: The Power of Together

The Boldness of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego

Daniel 3:24 *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."*

25 *"Look!" he answered, "**I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**"*

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Jesus showed up on the fiery furnace



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