

108.3 Better Together

John Maxwell tells the story of seeing a sign in the airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, that gave him pause. The sign read:

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Biblically we are called to travel life together, not alone. It was not good for Adam to be alone, so God made him a wife to go with him. Whether it is family, church, or nation, we go together WITH God to have success in accomplishing His purposes for us. This is why the Christians in Jerusalem intentionally joined in their fellowship. **Acts 2:40-46** (NKJV):

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Our forefathers worked together for the cause of liberty. They borrowed the slogan “*Unite or Die*” from the French and Indian War era. Believe it or not, they preferred death to the enslavement of tyranny. **George Washington** said, “I would rather die on my feet than live on my knees.” In **Patrick Henry’s** famous speech, he alluded to at least eight scripture references and then ended with, “Give me liberty, or give me death.” Various men from the various colonies met together, established the Continental Congress, created an Army, and defended their lives and property to establish a free land we call America.

Those men started our Continental Congress with Jacob Duche praying for their cause. The Founders called for humiliation, fasting, and prayer throughout the War. Once the War was over, they reconvened to create our republic. When their efforts to create our Constitution bogged down, the eighty-one-year-old **Benjamin Franklin** asked for prayer on June 28, 1787.

This is one of my favorite stories, and I have repeated it often since I started podcasting GNA. I won’t read Franklin’s whole off-the-cuff speech, just a few highlights. If you evaluate the speech you will notice that he made at least eight references to biblical texts. This is from whom many consider to be the least religious of our leading forefathers. If you have time, read the whole speech and see how many references you can identify. Here are three paragraphs of his speech.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings?

In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection.-Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.

To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

The Constitutional Convention was in great turmoil. The delegates could not reach a consensus on the document, and there was a danger that they would go home without establishing a strong national government. The so-called “irreligious” Benjamin Franklin rose to the occasion and reminded them of where we got our power and ability to defeat the British. He said they relied on divine providence, and he was right.

By the way, another criticism of Franklin is that people say he was a Deist. I had a teacher in my freshman year at Jacksonville University who claimed to be a deist. He believed in God but did not believe God was present with us. He said that God created and wound up the universe like a grandfather clock and left us to our own doing. One day the clock would unwind, and the universe would end.

Franklin called for prayer in Congress. Why would a deist encourage prayer if God is not present to hear or intervene? The Founders had a variety of notions about God that we might be uncomfortable with, but I do not believe Dr. Franklin was a deist if he encouraged prayer to engage in providence.

Human behavior specialist **Dr. Lloyd Magangeni** stated:

History is the insight to foresight.

I know most Americans hate history. In my years of preaching, people either loved or hated the times I brought up historical incidents to illustrate a point. While I love history, I understand why most do not. Most Americans had a BORING history teacher. Often the school principal assigned a coach to teach history. The coach generally was not interested in academics, but in making his team effective, so he went through the motions of teaching to fulfill his obligations to the school board. As a result of a disinterested teacher, we were bored and did not appreciate our history.

This is precisely where the Marxist education system wants us. If we do not know where we came from, we will not know where we are to go. Most Americans have little knowledge or appreciation for our past and the heroes who launched our country.

America was great because Americans focused their lives on God individually and collectively. The nation was not established under the oversight of a church or group of churches but on biblical principles that the people lived by. We were “one nation under GOD.”

Church attendance is declining. Churches are closing. Professed Christian Americans are not praying or reading the Bible regularly. Today, we need to follow Benjamin Franklin’s suggestion to the Constitutional Convention.

The Convention took Franklin’s advice and prayed together. Their differences diminished, and they agreed upon a Constitution for America. Many who attended that Convention believed that God directed the finished document. Imagine what would happen if contemporary Christian Americans talked and prayed together over life issues. God would respond in a way similar to that of our forefathers. His providence is still possible.

Keep The Light of *Better Together* Burning!

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