

## *Safe in God's family*

***“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”***  
*(Hebrews 10:25)*

Have you seen how a lion is attacking a herd of animals? The herd when they discover the plot of the lion to attack, they defend themselves by gathering together—the strong ones are outside and the weaker are inside. If the animals have horns they direct them toward the lion to prevent it from invading the herd. As the lion try to devour any of the flock it watches either the one who is slow to run or the one who is small, weak or sick. Sometimes it just quickly runs after the one who is left alone or away from the group.

In all these circumstances, whatever the condition of the animal that the lion caught, whether it is sick or strong, weak or satisfied, slow or unworried, we find a unique point; the animal is separated from the group. The separation is either caused by the coward group that quickly ran away or by the lion that worked hard to bring the prey outside the flock in order to attack it.

Many times we find believers in this similar situation. Basically a lion cannot just simply reach a victim from within a group. Once a believer is separated from the group of fellow believers the devil comes quickly to steal, kill and destroy. So then, ***“Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*** (1 Peter 5:8)

We are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus who is God (*Philippians 2:6*) came from heaven to earth to save us from sin and death. He bought us by His blood. He suffered and died on the cross to give us eternal life. As we believe in Christ Jesus we live a new way of life. We are in constant fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers. For it is not enough only to believe in Jesus and to say we give our life to Him. We need to be attached to Him being the head and become the member of His body or His family, the church or the group of believers. Such a group that from the local church does not matter whether it is small or big in number of members as long as we belong to the head, Jesus Christ; ***“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.”*** (*Colossians 1:17-18*)

Being a part of God's family we are encouraged to join together and not to give up meeting together as one body. After we believe in Jesus and have eternal life through Him, our enemy, the devil becomes more furious to destroy us. Our meetings with the group of believers make us stronger to stand the devil's schemes.

**1 – Let us encourage one another:** Everyday, life is becoming more difficult in today's world. Our meeting together allows us to know the lifestyle of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. It encourages us to know how everyone of us passes through hurdles of life while trusting in the Lord's promises. Our Lord Jesus is our Jehovah Jireh, the great provider. Hearing how God provides others their daily needs

encourage us to hear the difficulties in life, having the assurance that God will do the same to us.

**2- Let us strengthen one another:** Among the group of believers in Jesus, there are strong and there are weak. The strong have greater faith in God, they are better in knowing the word of truth, and they are more loving and prayerful. The weak and those who are new believers in the Lord Jesus need special care like newborn babies. They need more attention and to be regularly nourished by the word of God. They need to be taught how to pray, to praise and worship God and to read and understand the Bible. The Lord Jesus uses the strong in the group to strengthen the weak.

**3- Let us help one another:** This is by praying for one another and carrying each other's burden. We are responsible to support those who are in real need. ***“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong in the family of believers.”*** (*Galatians 6:10*)

**4- Let us comfort one another:** Many times we pass into troubles and hard trials. Our fellow believers comfort us by gentle words, fervent prayers and loving actions. ***“Praise be to the God...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”*** (*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*)

**5- Let us rebuke, warn and correct one another:** The Lord Jesus is coming back to take us, we who are ready at His coming. Therefore we have to be ready all the time. No one knows what day or time the Lord Jesus is coming back but we are sure that it is near and approaching. So let us keep ourselves blameless because He, who is coming is holy. We should not live a life of sin instead let us remind each other to live a holy life.

There was a young married man who lived in a foreign land and away from His family. He became a believer in Christ and joined a group of believers. His faith was growing. He started to read the word of God and to pray. But his weakness is women and his tendency to drink alcohol. While he was within the group of believers he was always shielded, protected and reminded to live a holy life. But the tempter took him outside the group to destroy him. In a moment of time he became less regular to attend the church and the group where he studied the Bible. Finally he was separated. After a few months the believers look for him and they found him trapped by his weakness – the cup of wine and beautiful women. The brethren prayed for him, rebuked him with love and encouraged him to be restored. ***“We live like under surveillance while we maintain fellowship with other believers, but we are certainly preserved at the Lord's coming.”***

***My Dear and beloved:*** The word of God reminds us that reading the Bible alone, praying and singing to God alone is not enough to make us ready at the Lord's coming. We ought not to neglect meeting together as brothers and sisters in the Lord. ***“Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross. Oh Lord, help me to be always with my brothers and sister so I can also receive your love, your care, and your protection through them. Help me to persevere to join the gatherings done in your name Lord Jesus.”*** **Amen.**