

This past weekend, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of women at a retreat in Emerald Isle, NC. I'll call them the "Lighthouse Ladies". Before the weekend, I had never met any of them but when I arrived at the venue, I immediately had a bond with the ladies. You see, even though we had never met, we had something in common. We were believers in Jesus Christ.

Throughout the weekend, all the ladies, encouraged each other, laughed and cried together, and prayed with and for one another. The writer of Hebrews exhorts his readers to never give up meeting together. We need each other. The Christian life is a daily struggle, especially in today's world. All around us are trials and temptations. We need the encouragement and prayers of other believers.

Believers are called to go into the world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are not to isolate ourselves from the world but we do need to insulate ourselves. One way to do that is to surround ourselves with others of the same heart and mind.

Thank you "Lighthouse Ladies" for welcoming me into your fellowship. When I arrived, I knew none of you but when I left I had many new friends! You will always hold a special



place in my heart!

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Hebrews 10:24-25 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Philippians 2:2 New International Version (NIV)

² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

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

If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



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