

## Pete Campola

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**Subject:** today's devotion

# 40 Days of Community

A Set of Thoughts, Ideas, Questions and Ponderings  
Submitted for your Digestion  
October 4, 2005 Day 10

Introduction: We are all in “*this*” 2gether. No one is getting out alive. As we explore what it means to be in community through Rick Warren’s better together it is essential that we tailor make this study to fit our communities. This devotional is meant to be a conversation starter. It is personal musings on the daily readings’ subject. If another author is not noted then the opinions expressed are those of Jodi Haier and only reflect her understandings and her journey. If you do not wish to receive a devotional a day for the next 40 days, please respond to this email with a thoughtful “no, thank you” ” **Instead of just forwarding this *please* send people’s email to me. I am not trying to be a control freak but I want to know where God’s going with this. People viewing this on the webpage can contact the webmaster with any comments. THANKS! Jodi**

## **Fellowship 2gether: “cultivating a life in common”**

(1Cor 1:10) We are asked to “make the choice to care about other peoples’ lives.” We are also told in 1 Cor. 5:12 “It is not my business to judge those who are not part of the church.” To some people this may seem like a contradiction. After talking to Val Schmadel last night in small group, I have a different view. One statement is telling us what to do; the other is telling us how to do it. Caring for another’s life is not minding their business. It is sharing their life struggle as if it was your own. You are to lend your support and encouragement without making life choices for others. Often we let privacy be an excuse not to be with people. We also like it that way because then we are free from embarrassment or judgment. The quote from 1Corinthians guards against the judgment. We know that only God will judge with any real power. As believers we are not more evolved than non-believers, we simply live our lives with a different focus, a different set of beliefs. We are not to judge lives that we know little about. We are to join those lives to see and be God’s touch.

## **Grow 2gether: “accepting, affirming, and advising”**

(Rom 15:7, 1Thess 5:11, Col 3:16) We have become a culture of advise-seekers. Oprah, Maury, Dr. Phil, Starting Over, and Jerry Springer all sell us a view of reality and a set of principles. I’m not being disrespectful of therapy; I’m being cautious where I find it. God made us just as He intended. Then God presented us with challenges, experiences, friendships and foes to hone us into the beings that are needed for times such as this. We live in a culture that knows what our choices are. We just don’t like them.

A group of college students wanted to make some money. They rented a storefront and equipped it with chairs and dividers. They put up a sign: “Listening \$1 a minute.” They didn’t offer advice or therapy. They actively listened to each person and then restated what was said. Period. They had waiting lists and lines around the block. They were a

huge monetary success. People had the answers inside them; they just needed to acknowledge them.

A friend called and wanted me to listen to his situation. I listened. He told me about the facts. Then he told me about the feelings. Then he shared his opinions. Finally he shared what he thought he ought to do. I acknowledged his thought process, affirmed his values and advised him to trust himself. He had based his judgment not on what was right for others, or on my opinion, but on the values he held. These values came from the experiences, challenges, friendships and foes God had put in his life. They had come from biblical study. They had come from looking at lives that model love.

Where are we looking?

### ***Serve 2gether:*** “working 2gether with 1 heart & 1 purpose”

(Phil 2:2) Our reading today ends with a quote from Webster’s Dictionary. The author notes that hospitality is found between hospice (shelter) and hospital (healing). I think that this is the foundational statement regarding service. We must create a safe place, a sanctuary for those we wish to serve. This place must be without judgment, without expectation. It also needs to provide healing. In a hospital, they don’t merely take a tumor out and then leave the patient with a gaping hole. They treat the whole person and start them on the path to recovery. The actual recovery is up to the person themselves.

When we serve our eyes and hearts need to be focused on the people, not the process, nor the outcomes. We do need to celebrate and look for the fruit of our labors. These fruits may be the invisible intangibles that are hard to collect. In Kentucky, we repaired and built, collected and sorted. More importantly we allowed a man to show us his mountain. We gave respect to a man that was winning his daily fight with addiction. We comforted a woman in despair. We brought laughter to people during worship. Hospitality is not placed between death (hospice) and dying (hospital). It is placed between life (shelter) and living (healing). Someone was very intentional about it.

### ***Worship 2gether:*** “come 2gether in my name”

(Matt 18:20) Do you go to church expecting God to show up? “Wherever 2 or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” This is Jesus’ promise. Are we so blind that we cannot see forgiveness in action? Are we deaf to the stories of love and grace? Can we not feel the healing? Can we not taste the sweet sacrifice made for us? Do we not smell victory? This weekend expect to see, hear, feel taste, and smell a living savior present wherever 2 or more are gathered in Jesus’ name. For those of you impatient or ADHD, just gather 2 or more and expect the guest you seek. Believing is seeing.

### ***Reach Out 2gether:*** “get others to believe”

(Phil 1:27) **How** can I pray for you? - - - What will you hear?  
How **can** I pray for you? - - - What are the words?  
How can **I** pray for you? - - - Who am I? By what authority?  
How can I **pray** for you? - - - It is too intimate and presumptuous.  
How can I pray **for** you? - - - Don’t I share the same weakness?  
How can I pray for **you**? - - - We are so far apart.

#### **HERE I GO AGAIN**

CASTING CROWNS

2CORINTHIANS 5:16 – 21/ Romans 10:14

Father, hear my prayer  
I need the perfect words  
Words that he will hear  
And know they’re straight from You  
I don’t know what to say  
I only know it hurts  
To see my friend slowly fade away.

So maybe this time I’ll speak the words of life  
With your fire in my eyes  
But that old familiar fear is tearing at my words

What am I so afraid of?

'Cause here I go again  
Talking about the rain  
And mulling over things that won't live past today  
And as I dance around the truth  
Time is not my friend  
This might be my last chance to tell him that  
You love him  
But here I go again, here I go again

Lord, You love him so, You gave Your only Son  
If he will just believe; he will never die  
But how then will he know what he has never heard  
Lord he has never seen mirrored in my life

This might be the last chance to tell him that You love him  
This might be the last chance to tell him that You love him  
You love him, You love him  
What am I so afraid  
What am I so afraid  
What am I so afraid of?  
How then will he know  
What he has never heard?