**THE MEN YOU NEED IN YOUR LIFE**

**God has called us to steward, to shepherd his will for the world.**

**Genesis 2.15:** The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to

work it and take care of it.

**To be the kind of steward and shepherd God wants us to be, we will need help.**

**Genesis 2.18:** The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will

 make a helper suitable for him.”

**The Apostle Paul needed help and he knew it.**

**2 Timothy 4.6-11:** The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good

 fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me

the crown of righteousness … Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas,

because he loved this world, has deserted me. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and

Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me.

It’s a sign of courage to take on the world.

But it’s a sign of foolishness to take on the world \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**TO LIVE A LIFE THAT PLEASES GOD AND BLESSES OTHERS, WE NEED**

**1. Brothers who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us for who we are.**

Good relationships are places of safety.

They’re where we are secure enough to tell our secrets, unburden our hearts and not

have to watch our words.

**George Santayana:** One’s friends are that part of the human race with which one can

be human.

**D. M. Craik:** The inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person — having neither

to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

**Each of us has three selves.**

1. **Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ self –** this we share with everyone.
2. **Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ self –** this we may share with a few people.
3. **Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ self –** this is the part of us that lives in the shadows.

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Every one of us has a secret self.

And every one of us needs to hear this: secrets make us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It’s only when we find a place to share our secrets that we experience healing and

freedom and wholeness.

**2. Brothers who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we need to hear.**

**Ephesians 4.15:** Speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like

Christ ….

Question: Do have a friend who tells you the truth about yourself?

 If not, you’ll never become who you were made to be and you’re unlikely to

accomplish the purpose you were created to achieve.

**3. Brothers who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.**

Very few of us reach our potential in life.

Sometimes it’s because we’re selfish.

Sometimes it’s because we’re lazy.

But more often it’s because we don’t know what we can do – we don’t see our

potential, we downplay our gifts, and we doubt our abilities.

**4. Brothers who will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with us.**

“Sometimes You Can’t Make It on Your Own,” U2

Tough, you think you’ve got the stuff.

You’re telling me and anyone you’re hard enough.

You don’t have to put up a fight.

You don’t have to always be right.

Let me take some of the punches for you tonight.

You don’t have to go it alone.

Sometimes you can’t make it on your own.