



The Garden View

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Collaboration

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One of the greatest tools God has given us is each other. Just think of the times in your life where you have struggled. Maybe with something like school, work, or self-confidence, or something much more devastating like loss, grief, or a scary diagnosis. Chances are, one of the

most prominent things that helped you through those times was the care, concern, or comfort extended by another person.

Matthew 18:20 tells us, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." We know that we can do more together than we can by ourselves. When we collaborate with one another, God is really on the move, and together we can accomplish amazing things. Together, we till the land, sow the seeds, and water the plants that will eventually lead to God's kingdom come.

Still, as in any kind of gardening, there is a lot of work involved in this process and it takes many different components working in accordance with one another. There is a lot of waiting, too. Though during our waiting, we do not argue about whether the water or the sunshine is more important to the plant. Whether each seed may need less or more of a substance, we never question that all ingredients that go into caring for the garden are of equal necessity and importance.

God expects our work together to be carried out with this same perspective. Difficult, important work that we each dig into based on the individual strengths He has given us, with no role being one more important than the other. This is because there is only One that makes the garden actually grow.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NIV)

"5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."