

# United We Stand

I loved to watch “*Bonanza*” when I was growing up. Do you remember that show? I remember one episode where Little Joe announced to his father, Ben, that he was leaving home and going out on his own. Ben took him over to the safe and pulled out a bundle of sticks (*probably not what he was expecting*). He handed them to Little Joe and told him to break the bundle of sticks with his bare hands. Little Joe took the bundle and proudly begin to try to break them. He soon realized that he could not break them and humbly handed the bundle back to his father. Ben slid one stick from the bundle and easily snapped it in two. He told Little Joe, “*As long as we are bundled together we are strong, but when one goes out on his own, he is weaker and easily broken.*” (Even TV shows make a great point now and then!)

Father God already told this truth thousands of years ago in **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** “*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*”

Satan is watching and waiting for us to divide and for one “*sheep*” to “*go astray*”. He knows that he cannot get to us as long as we are united together, but when one of us leaves the flock we are easily broken! That is why the Shepherd will leave the 99 (*bundled together*) and go out to find the one that has wandered away. Why? Because they are alone! Let us make a commitment to ourselves, our fellow brethren, and to God that we will always strive to be UNITED, because “DIVIDED WE FALL”!

We Americans celebrate our country’s “*Birthday*” on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Let us give ourselves a “*Birthday Gift*”. Reunite the United States of America!