

## THINGS LEARNED BY PUTTING A PUZZLE TOGETHER

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First off, I need to confess that putting puzzles together is not my favorite thing to do. It takes patience and time and both are in short supply for me. But I do know a few things about putting puzzles together if I ever decided to put another one together.

It helps to have a picture of what it is that you're trying to put together.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." We have to have vision. We need to start with the end in mind. We need to know where we are going.

Another thing that I've learned is that you don't just pull one piece out of the box at a time. You empty the box. You take out all the pieces. You don't see the whole picture yet, but you begin making preparation so that it becomes easier to see which piece goes where.

The same thing is true about coming to God. You have to be willing to give Him everything.

Another thing you need to remember is that every piece that is needed to put the puzzle together, is in the box. You don't have to go to different places to get different pieces.

The fourth thing I've learned about putting puzzles together is that it takes time. The bigger the puzzle the more time it's going to take to complete it.

Most people are impatient and they want God to fix in a moment's time what it has taken them a lifetime to mess up.

Another important thing about putting puzzles together is to realize that every piece has its proper place. If you try to force something where it's not intended to be, you're going to mess up the picture.

It's also important to remember that every piece matters. It might not go where you want it to go, but it goes somewhere, you just have to find the right place.

Last but not least, it helps to have help. If you aren't willing to listen to wise counsel and you try to force something that wasn't intended to be, you're going to make things worse.

Surround yourself with people who love you and who want what is best for your life and then listen to them and allow them to help you get the pieces of your life put together as God see's fit.