

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD - 3



PRINCIPLES FOR LASTING FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

I. Introduction:

It is wonderful to know that God wants to be our friend and we can be His friends also. God loves us and desires our fellowship. He is not embarrassed to call you his friend or to be associated with you. Don't see or make yourself unworthy of His friendship. God loves to talk to us and share His hopes and plans with us His children.

II. Some Friends of God in The Bible:

1. Abraham - **2Chron.20: 7; James 2:23**
2. Moses - **Exod.33: 11.**
3. David - **1Sam.13: 14.**
4. Lazarus - **Jn.11: 11.**
5. The 12 Apostles - **Jn.15: 15.**

III. Three T's for Lasting Friendships:

1. **Trust** - Lasting friendship must be built on trust - **Heb.11: 6; Jam.2: 23.** Abraham believed God. Believe is trust. If you trust someone you believe in that person. You trust someone when you know that person has your best interest in mind. Friendship can break and be destroyed for lack of trust. Judas Iscariot betrayed and destroyed his friendship with Jesus for lack of trust - **Ps.41: 6; Matt.26: 50.**

2. **Truth** - Lasting friendship must be based on truth - **Ps.24: 1-2; Jn.14: 6; 17: 17; Eph.4: 25.** A friend is always truthful. Lies destroys friendship while truthfulness builds it up. Half truth is a lie also. A true friend will tell you the whole truth even when it is uncomfortable or when it hurts - **Prov.27: 5-6.**

3. **Time** - Friends spend time together and lasting friendship is built over time - . Since deep, abiding and lasting friendship is based on trust, such trust takes time to develop. Some friendships don't last because there was not enough time to build them. Maybe the person moved, passed away, or was simply impatient. So, the friendship develop but died for lack of time.

IV. Three C's of Lasting Friendship:

1. **Communication** - Friends talk to each other and share their secrets together - **Amos 3: 7**. They tell each other bitter truth in love - **Prov.27: 5-6, 17**. God wants you to talk to Him in prayer every day. He talks to us all the time also through His word and by the gifts of the Holy Spirit - **Ps.62: 11; 63: 1; Jn.10: 27; 1Cor.12: 7-11**.

2. **Companionship** - Friends enjoy each other's company and enjoying doing things together. When friends are together, they rarely mind the time. Your friend is that person you enjoy being with without minding the time. God wants you to spend time with Him - **Gen.1: 26; Ps.42: 1-2, 7; 84: 10; 122: 1; Acts 2: 44; 4: 32; Heb.10: 25; 13: 5**.

3. **Care & Compassion** - Friends love and care for one another - **Jn.4: 7-8**. They are compassionate towards each other, and they help and encourage one another. Your true friends don't just come close only when things are rosy but will stick to you through the rough times also. True friends share both good and bad times together; they rejoice with each other and also weep with one another - **Lk.22: 28; Rom.12: 15; 2Tim.2: 12**.

V. Conclusion:

Friendship with God is a rare privilege. However, it is one thing for us to be given this privilege and be called into friendship with God yet, it is another for us to answer the call and show ourselves friendly as required in Scripture- **Prov.18: 24**. We must trust God and be trustworthy, we must hold firmly to the truth of His word and be truthful, and we must be patient to invest time in building a strong relationship and friendship with God.

This does not mean that we must be perfect. None of God's friends in Scripture was perfect. Abraham lied and slept with his housemaid. Moses was a murderer. David slept with Bathsheba and killed Uriah, her husband. The 12 apostles deserted Jesus Christ at His most crucial moment yet, they were all called God's friends. So, that gives us hope that we can be God's friends also though we are not perfect. That is why Jesus Christ is called, "Friend of sinners" (**Matt.11: 19**). Friendship with God brings out the best in us; it helps us to fulfill purpose in life and be the person God created us to be.

So, come to Jesus with all your frailties and failings!