

Friendship With God

John 15:13-15



Friendship With God

Friends of God

John 15:13-15, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father, I have made known unto you.

1 John 4:10, Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD'S GRACE IS NOWHERE SEEN MORE CLEARLY THAN IN HIS DESIRE FOR US TO BE HIS FRIENDS.



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We, of course, may reject the terms of His friendship.

"You are My friends," Jesus said, "if you do whatever I command you."

James 4:4, "Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God."

John 1:11, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."

We are staggered by this love when we read **Matthew 26:21-23, 47**

"And Jesus said unto him, Friend, do that for which thou art come."



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So, God's desire to be friends with us is a truly amazing fact. But we should respond to this fact with more than mere amazement.

We should **seek** God in a way that shows our gratitude for His offer, and our seeking should be characterized by the same faithfulness and obedience that God saw in His old friend Abraham.

James 2:22-23, "Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' **And he was called the friend of God.**"

Acts 13:22, "And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king; to whom also he bare witness and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who shall do all My will."

All these many years later, friendship with God must work the same way in our own lives.



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It is in His gentle friendship that our Greatest Friend is always asking,

"I gave My life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?"



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What Good is God's Friendship?

Philippians 3:8, "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

COULD WE POSSIBLY PUT A PRICE TAG ON GOD'S FRIENDSHIP?

"Count all things loss!"

God's friendship is good not because it "pays" us to be His friend, but simply because of God Himself.

Nothing must be allowed to take the place of God in our hearts.

Faced with a choice between God's friendship and that of our worldly peers, we often seek the favor of our peers by doing things that greatly damage our relationship with God.



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What Good is God's Friendship?

James put it bluntly, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Jeremiah 9:23-24, "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord."

Friendship With God

The God Who Waits for Our Return

ONE OF THE WONDROUS ASPECTS OF GOD'S CHARACTER IS THE LOVE WITH WHICH HE WAITS FOR US TO TURN BACK TO HIM.

Jeremiah 8:4-5, "Moreover, thou shalt say unto them, thus saith Jehovah: Shall men fall, and not rise up again? Shall one turn away, and not return? Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return."

The God who waits for our return is a God who has promised us forgiveness.

More than that, we can determine that our gratitude will be shown in our deeds.

Abraham (James 2) & David (1 Samuel 13:14), (Acts 13:22)

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The God Who Waits for Our Return

"And Jehovah passed by before him, and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, ..." (Exodus 34:6-7).

"To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him" (Daniel 9:9).

But God has made possible our return to Him, and it's only in such a return that the prospect of real joy can spring to life. Here is where our homesick hearts should come to rest.

Here, at last, is where we find a perfect Friend.