

Text: Are you friends with God?



The Best Friend

This week I want to focus on the topic of friendship with the Lord. Just think about it for a moment—it is an amazing thing when you consider that you have the ability to have God as your friend.

Our lives are all filled with highs and lows and there are times when we just need the comfort of knowing that we have someone that we can count on, confide in and be 100% real with no matter what's happening around us. God can be that kind of friend to us if we do our part to stay close to Him.

For those of us who have had a strong friendship with the Lord in the past, it is important that we recognize that like all friendships, if we are not careful, we can find ourselves “growing apart” from God. Let us look at some of the things we can do to maintain a strong friendship with the Lord.

*I no longer call you servants.
Instead, I have called you
friends...*

John 15: 9-15

*Four things we can do to keep a
strong bond with the Lord...*

#1) Be Obedient

- John 14: 23-24
 - Love for the Lord and Obedience to Him and His Word go hand in hand. We can not claim that we love Him if we are constantly and recklessly disobedient. We all make occasional mistakes, but the one who is friends with the Lord is careful to do his or her best to follow God's Word.
- The Lord finds favor with Saul and selects him to be king. Saul later becomes arrogant and is disobedient to God's commands. Saul falls out of favor and friendship with God and God then rejects Saul as king.
 - I Samuel 10: 6-7, 15:10, 15: 24-26

**When we are disobedient, we
damage our friendship with God.**

To restore our friendship with him, we
must acknowledge our wrongs and try
our best to do better.

I John 1:9

#2) Communicate

- David's strong friendship with God is illustrated this prayer. As David prays, you get the sense that he knows that he has a true friendship with the Lord.
 - Psalm 17: 6-13, Psalm 18: 1-3
- Through his words, you can see David's friendship with the Lord. He prays as if he is talking with a friend who's assistance he relies upon. David is confident that his friend, the Lord, will see him through his difficulty. *We, too, should communicate consistently with God and try our best to grow in Him so that we, too, can have confidence that He will be there for us.*

For God does speak...

- Job 33: 14-18
 - He does speak to us, but we must be ready to hear Him
 - Our communication with God is a two-way interaction. We should not only talk to the Lord, but we should listen, as well. God speaks to us in various types of ways.
 - He speaks through His Word
 - He speaks through others who may tell you just the thing you needed to hear
 - He speaks through His Holy Spirit which guides us. Sometimes you just get the "feeling" that God is directing you

#3) Give of Yourself

- John 3:16
 - God gave His best to us. He gave His only Son, so that we might have a chance at eternal life with Him. We must have a reciprocal relationship with the Lord. *It's not just about what we can get from Him—it's about what we can give to Him. Giving to God demonstrates our love for Him and our willingness to sacrifice.*

But how can I give to God?

- Serving Others
 - 1 Peter 4:10
- Worship and Praise
 - Colossians 3:16
- Living Right
 - Romans 12: 1-2
- Generosity, Gifts and Offerings
 - 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

Life Lesson: Have you ever had a friendship where you constantly gave and the other person constantly took what you had to give but rarely gave in return? Doesn't feel good, does it? We don't want that type of friendship with God. *He constantly gives to us and we must give to Him too.*

#4) Recognize and Eliminate Potential Threats to Your Friendship

- Proverbs 16:28
 - Sometimes, others will try to come in between two people who are close. In order to preserve a friendship, you must be able to recognize and eliminate potential threats to it. **What or who is trying to come in between your friendship with God?**
- The Devil, disguised as a serpent, came between the friendship that existed between God and man. Even now, the Devil tries his best to interfere, ruin and break-up the relationship we have with God.
 - Genesis 3: 1-6

Once you have recognized that someone or something threatens your relationship with God, you must take the necessary steps to prevent damage to your friendship with Him.

Take Action

What will you do now to strengthen your friendship with the Lord? He has already done His part and now it is up to you to do your part...