

DEVELOPING A HEART FOR GOD "A HEART FOR FRIENDSHIP"

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Am I CLOSE TO ANYONE?

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

Meaningful friendships benefit my...

- LIFE SPAN Dr. James Lynch: "Lonely people live significantly shorter lives"
- HEALTH U of Mich.: No friendship is health risk as high as obesity, smoking
- MARRIAGE Dr. John Gottman: "Friendship is the key to marital happiness"
- SUCCESS Carnegie Institute: 85% of financial success due to skill with people

Why we have trouble making friends...

- We are MOBILE
- We are AFRAID
- We are BUSY
- We are UNSKILLED

David and Jonathon – The Story

"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself." 1 Samuel 18:1-3

Covenant – BINDING AGREEMENT, A STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

"Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt." 1 Samuel 18:4

"So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, 'May the LORD call David's enemies to account. And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.'" 1 Samuel 20:16,17

"Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, 'You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!' 'Why should he be put to death? What has he done?' Jonathan asked his father. But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David." 1 Samuel 20:30-33

"After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most. Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town." 1 Samuel 20:41-43

"While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God." 1 Samuel 23:15,16

5 skills for Lasting Friendship

1. I must be CAREFUL AND CHOOSE GOOD FRIENDS

"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses" Proverbs 27:19 (LB)

2. I must be COMMITTED

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" Proverbs 17:17

3. I must be CANDID

"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds of a friend can be trusted."
Proverbs 27:5-6

"An honest answer is the sign of a true friendship." Proverbs 24:26

The Golden Rule for Candor: I must be CORRECTABLE MYSELF

"Don't refuse to accept criticism; get all the help you can." Proverbs 23:12
(LB)

4. I must be CONSIDERATE

4 tendencies that destroy friendship:

• NAGGING

"Love forgets mistakes. Nagging about them parts the best of friends"
Proverbs 17:9 (LB)

• BRAGGING

"Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips." Proverbs 27:2

• NEEDING

"Don't visit your neighbor too often, or you will outwear your welcome!"
Proverbs 25:17 (LB)

• BLABBING

"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret"
Proverbs 11:13

"In everything you do, do to others what you would have them do to you."
Matthew 7:12

5. I must be CONSTRUCTIVE NOT DESTRUCTIVE

"As iron sharpens iron, friend shapes friend" Proverbs 27:17

"Now we can rejoice in our wonderful relationship with God -- all because of what our Lord Jesus has done for us in dying for our sins -- making us friends with God." Romans 5:11

TIME WITH GOD

The Bible was written to us, the Psalms were written for us. They are the prayers and songs of the Bible. As you read through the Psalms, make these prayers your prayers. Paraphrase verses to become your prayers to the Lord. Write out your own Psalms to the Lord. How powerful it is to pray back God's Word to Him. Blessings on your daily time with the Lord.

Monday – Read Psalm 37-39

Tuesday – Read Psalm 40-42

Wednesday – Read Psalm 43-45

Thursday – Read Psalm 46-48

Friday – Read Psalm 49-51

Saturday – Read Psalm 52-54