

FIVE FACETS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD and Others

SCRIPTURE - James 2:22–24 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ 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. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Friendship is a very important part of human relationships.
- B. To be called a friend of God is the most important friendship we can have.
- C. We will be looking at characteristics of friendship in this lesson.

1. FACE TO FACE RELATIONSHIP

- A. Exodus 33:8-11 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. ⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. ¹¹ So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
- B. Numbers 12:6–8 Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?”
- C. Deuteronomy 34:10 But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,
- D. Through Jesus, we have access to God. - Hebrews 10:19–22 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. OUR ACTIONS BASED ON TRUST

- A. Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
- B. Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.
- C. God made us and He knows what is best for us. - Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
- D. Ephesians 1:11–13 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

3. REVEALING OF THE HEART

- A. John 15:14-15 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- B. Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.
- C. God loves us and cares about us. He wants us to open up to him with all our problems. - 1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
- D. Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

4. DEEPLY COMMITTED AND LOYAL

- A. Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
- B. Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- C. Jesus always did His Father's will. John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."
- D. We must be totally committed to God. - 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- E. Colossians 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- F. John 15:13-14 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

5. WILLINGNESS TO BE PAINFULLY HONEST

- A. Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
- B. Psalm 141:5 Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.
- C. 2 Samuel 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.
- D. God hurts when we sin, but He wants to hear us confess our sin, He knows it anyway. ¹ John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- E. Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you a friend of God?
- B. Do you have an obedient faith in Him?