

# Developing Your Friendship with God



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God as you choose  
to be**

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Friendships don't develop by accident -  
they take time and effort.

Do you desire a deeper relationship with  
God?

More intimate?

Do you take time to listen to him - and  
his cares?

# **I must choose to be honest with God**

The first building block to deeper relationship - honesty

None of God's friends in the Bible were perfect - but they were honest - God insists on complete honesty



God's friends - honest about their feelings, complaining, accusing, second-guessing, arguing - yet God encouraged this.

Abraham - questioned and challenged God over Sodom.

Jeremiah complained God had tricked him.

Job expressed his bitterness.

**Job** expressed his bitterness.

God defended Job and accused his friends of being inauthentic, Job 42:7;

*After God had finished addressing Job, he turned to Eliphaz the Temanite and said, "I've had it with you and your two friends. I'm fed up! You haven't been honest either with me or about me—not the way my friend Job has.*

Look at God's friendship with **Moses**;

Exodus 33:1-17

*12-13 Moses said to God, "Look, you tell me, 'Lead this people,' but you don't let me know whom you're going to send with me. You tell me, 'I know you well and you are special to me.' If I am so special to you, let me in on your plans. That way, I will continue being special to you. Don't forget, this is your people, your responsibility."*



*14 God said, "My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."*

*15-16 Moses said, "If your presence doesn't take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you're with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we're special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?"*

*17 God said to Moses: "All right. Just as you say; this also I will do, for I know you well and you are special to me. I know you by name."*

*Warren encourages you to be frank and honest with God - “**friendship is built on disclosure...God is bored with predictable, pious cliches...to be God’s friend you must be honest to God.**”*

Warren encourages you to confess hidden anger you might have towards God - where you have felt disappointed or cheated...

People often blame God for hurts caused by others.

Bitterness towards god often stops friendship - “why would I want to be friends with God if he allowed this?”

God works for good ***in all things***

Psalms is full of people ranting, raving, telling of fears, doubt, resentments and deep passions - ***all alongside*** thanksgiving, praise, faith and many more emotions

# **I must choose to obey God in Faith**

When you trust God's wisdom and obey, even when you don't understand it, you deepen your friendship with God.



Jesus said,

“You are my friends if you obey what I command”

Friends in the court of a king are still subjects of the king. We are friends not equals.

Obedience for us comes out of love, not fear, duty or compulsion - he knows what is best for us.

We can obey out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us. In fact Jesus models obedience for us;

John 15:9-11

God is interested in our obedience in small things - too often we focus on the big things which happen rarely in our lives.

Remember; 1 Samuel 15:22

Acts like telling the truth, being kind, encouraging...all happen every day and are a major part of the way God asks us to act.

Again the model is seen in Jesus;

At his baptism God said - Matt 3:17

What had he been doing? Lk 2:51 TM



# **I must choose to value what God values**

Friends care about what is important to the other person.

What does God care about, what does he grieve over, what brings him pleasure?



**Paul** demonstrates this for us;

2 Cor 11:2

**David** - then quoted by Jesus - Ps 69:9

God cares about the redemption of his people - for this reason Jesus came to earth

# **I must desire friendship with God more than anything else**

Read the Psalms and you  
see this desire  
constantly expressed.

David used words like;  
longing, thirst, hunger.

Read Psalm 27:4, 63:3



**Jacob's** passion was so great...

“I will not let you go unless you bless me”

Warren says, ‘Jacob won’ - Jacob was passionate with God, and God loved it.

**Paul** - his friendship with God was his first priority, his ultimate purpose in life.

Php 3:10 Amplified Bible

**Intimate friendship with God is a choice - not an accident**

What do you give up for it?

Do you develop the skills and habits necessary?

Max Anders asks,

*“If you spent a proportionate amount of time practicing the **piano** as you do working on your Christian life would you be able to conduct a decent recital?”*

**Remember:** There is nothing more important than your friendship with God

## **Point to Ponder:**

I'm as close to God as I choose to be

**Verse to remember:**

James 4:8



## **Question to consider:**

What practical choices will I make today  
in order to grow closer to God?