

Introduction:

- Review.
- God desires our friendship. This is what makes friendship with God possible. His desire for friendship was the place in His heart where we were conceived. Our quest and destiny in life should be to find it again. Ie. Salmon returns to the place of its birth. Sea turtles coming home to nest. Ie. Geese flying home to nest. There is something on the inside that draws them back to that place.
- Friendship defines the highest level of relationship. It is the highest level because of what friendship means. It is far stronger than a servant. Sonship that embraces friendship is most powerful!
- We see God as mostly as Provider. But do we really know Him as friend? That is the invitation to us tonight to be/become better friends of God.
 - Most of us begin our walk with God just as Abraham did—wanting the benefits God offers. New land! YES! Father of many nations! YES! To often we forget about wanting God or we do not know how to relate to God.
 - We aren't terribly interested in His dreams; we probably aren't even consciously aware that He has any. But we are aware that He can help us with our dreams, the basis of our needs, and remind Him that He is our Father—our source. People are so much alike.
- How do I become a friend of God? We know that the foundation of friendship is Time and Trust. Friendships are built through trust over time. Take either of those away and the building stops.

1. God Initiates Relationship With Us

- a. God pursues us. Because of sin we were separated, lost, enemies of God.
 - i. God has always desired a family from the start. He wants relationship to share life with.
 - ii. *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.*¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you...Jn 14:15-16
- b. He understands our weakness and is willing to help us grow and mature in relationship with him. Ez 16:9.
- c. He has made a way possible for us to come boldly with confidence to Him.
 - i. Moses went in and out of the tent of meeting with God. Ex 33:8-11
 - ii. Joshua Son of Nun would remain behind. Ex 33:11
 - iii. *“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”* (Hebrews 4:16, NLT)
- d. How would your relationship with God change if you trusted and confided in him as you do your best friend?

2. How Are Friendships Built?

- a. Through Trust Over time - bonds of friendship are forged over time.
 - i. It takes time together in a variety of different situations.
 - ii. With God it is a matter of being able to trust Him in different situation in life. It is not a God issue it a man issue. God can be trusted but are willing to trust Him and how far can we trust Him?
 - iii. Abraham and Moses as we look over their lives, we see them in a variety of situations good and bad that tests them in their ability to trust God. It takes time for life to pass by us this way.
 - iv. A friendship implies closeness and takes time to develop. It is comprised of trust, compatibility, affection, and, of course, a high level of interpersonal knowledge.
- b. Communication - this is what we in Christian circles call prayer. God initiates this: prevenient grace.
 - i. In short, this is called talking with God.

- ii. If you do not talk with the person you are trying to grow with, friendship will not happen.
 1. In Chipewo, I could not speak their dialect of Zambian. But we would try with hand signals, pictures etc. And as we communicated we were sharing out lives with each other and relationship was built.
 2. My wife and I were sharing life together last night, just talking and as we did our hearts just melted with love for each other. There is something special about that place where you connect with another person. But the connection is communication.
- iii. That is why we put so much emphasis on prayer at our church. God likes to talk with us! Most church cultures are designed around the Sunday morning service and our relationship with God ends up being event driven. But he said, His House would be called a House of Prayer! A culture that revolves around Him. Joyful in the House of Prayer! Communication with God. Loving Him and being Loved by Him.
- iv. Abraham and Moses talked with God in very intimate ways. Intimate as in heart to heart!
 1. Abraham Gen 15, 18,
 2. Moses Ex 33:8-11
 3. Much of their heart to heart talking was done in a tent. A place of privacy away from others.
 4. Find yourself a tent. A place where you can talk with God.
- v. *Friends share their plans, and Moses was confident in God's plans. "But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face" (Deut. 34:10). Friends share plans. "I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me." (John 15:15, NLT)*
- vi.
- c. Discovery
 - i. God searches the earth looking for those whose hearts are loyal towards Him. "*The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.*" (2 Chronicles 16:9, NLT)
 - ii. We learn about God by searching His Word. This is how we discover who He is and what we can trust Him for. We learn His character through the Word.
 1. "Faith begins where the will of God is known!" FF Bosworth.
 2. It is God's Word that lets us know what to trust Him for." FF Bosworth
- d. Walking. To walk with implies all aspects of life.
 - i. Enoch—walked with God. Gen 5:22,24. "*...Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.*" (Genesis 5:22–25, NLT) In over 300 years of friendship with God, you have to know you have walked through some stuff.
 - ii. Gen 6:9 Noah also walked with God.
 - iii. Job Feeling abandoned, Job cried out, "*Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me; when His lamp shone upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness; just as I was in the days of my prime, when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were around me; when my steps were bathed with cream, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!*" (Job 29:1–6). In effect he cried, "What happened to our friendship? We used to talk all of the time, what's wrong?" Job walked through some 'stuff' with God.
 - iv. Abraham and Moses walked through some stuff with God.

Conclusion:

- How will unbelieving people come to trust in our God if we don't know Him well enough to trust Him ourselves? Friends know each other.
- On a scale of 1-10 10 being the best. How would you rate your friendship with God? What do you need to do to improve that?
- When Abraham died, He saw to it Abraham was buried at Hebron, which actually means "friendship."

2 Sam 5:1 David made King at Hebron. Now we are your bone and your flesh.