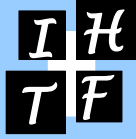


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THE POWER OF GOD'S FRIENDSHIP

1 – You Are My Friends

John 15:14-15 (NKJV)

14 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.

James 2:23 (NKJV)

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.

Who does not want to be called a friend of God, Creator of the whole Universe? What does it take to be called His friend? This relationship is stronger than friendship between any two people: husband and wife, parent and child, siblings, BFFs, etc. The concept of being God's friend involves a close, intimate, and trusting relationship with the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and is built on obedience to His commands and faith in Him. Jesus emphasized that this obedience was to all that God had made known to Him and He had passed on to His disciples as friends.

2 – A life of Faith

Joel 2:13 (NKJV)

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

A friend of God lives a life of faith, trusting in God's benevolence and promises, and follows His direction. The power of God's friendship is evidence in His being full of grace and mercy, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Who does not want a friend who relents from doing harm, and loves at all times? In times of adversity, we have someone who is closer than a brother. We have God. He is the one who knows the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end. The power of friendship with such a Being is beyond comprehension. Through faith we are able to please and draw near to Him. As we draw near to Him, He draws near to us and we experience a bond like no other. We then begin to know the power of such a bond.

3 - Take Away

May we desire to know God more. Having faith means we believe God and trust that He will do what He says without needing further proof or confirmation. That is what friends do. Then we will begin to experience the power of friendship with God!