

CLOSER – 2

“Friends of God”

Exodus 33:7-11 – *“It was Moses’ practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp. Everyone who wanted to make a request of the Lord would go to the Tent of Meeting outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in the entrances of their own tents. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.”*

Romans 5:8-11 – *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ **has** made us friends of God.”*

- **Friendship with God is no longer a special privilege for those who will “pay the price” – It is for ALL of God’s children!**

3 Things To Help Us as We Cultivate Our Friendship:

1. Realize that REAL friendship is a PROCESS

Introduction > Familiarity > Bonding (trust is built)

2. Keep ‘SHORT-TABS’ – avoid HIDING

Mathew 6:6 – *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

What we often do: HIDE from God

What we need to do: COME to Papa

1 John 1:7-9 – *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

3. Come to God EMPTY and with wonder.

Psalm 25:14 – “*The Lord is a friend to those who revere Him. He teaches them His covenant.*”

- Read God’s Word with the Holy Spirit ! (the Helper)

4. Give God unhurried TIME to speak to you.

- Before anything, seek to QUIET your mind and soul

A Basic Devotional Time:

1. Find a quiet PLACE
2. Start with WORSHIP (hymns, scripture songs, etc)
3. Go to your Bible Reading PLAN (the Bible app)
4. Pray off of whatever passages TOUCH you, intrigue you
5. Finish with INTERCESSION

5. DO whatever he tells you!

John 15:4 – “*You are my friends if you DO what I tell you.*”

- God stops speaking when you stop obeying.