Next Steps

☐ Today, for the first time, I pray

Lord Jesus, I want to accept You as my Savior. Thank you for forgiving

my sins. I trust You with my life.

Amen

☐ I will memorize:

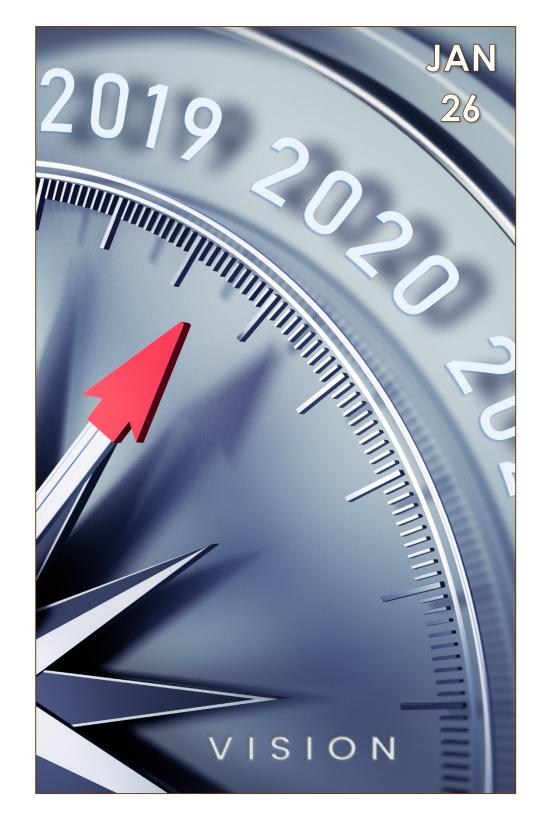
"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." Proverbs 13:20

- \square I want to be baptized (indoors), Sun, Feb 2^{nd} .
- ☐ Send me info about Man Camp, Feb 21-22. Contact me at: _____
- ☐ I will facilitate a Community Group during Fierce
- ☐ I want to join The Gathering, Feb 4th @ 6:30, and attend:
 - ☐ Fierce Bible Study ☐ Starting Point OR ☐ Get Ahead

TUESDAY NIGHT STUDIES A FIERCE PERSON OF GOD LOVES GOD WITH ALL THEY HAVE STARTING FEBRUARY 4TH







Friendship Balance

"It is not good for man to be alone."

Genesis 2:18

"A righteous man is cautious in friendship."

Proverbs 12:26

"Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians, 15:33

When it comes to those who shape our lives, we get to **CHOOSE**!

- ____CASUAL____ friends are the result of circumstances.
- ____CLOSE_____ friends are the result of choices.

I. Friendship Advice from God's Word

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12
(NIV)

"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?"

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NLT)

"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked." Proverbs 25:26 (NIV)

"Do not make friends with a **hot-tempered person**, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared."

Proverbs 22:24-25 (NIV)

"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Translations:

II. Oualities to Seek in Close Friendships

Pleasant demeanor

"An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends." Proverbs 18:1 (NIV)

Tips: Smile. Don't Complain. Be interested in others' passions.

Great Listener

"Be **quick to listen** and slow to speak." James 1:19 (NLT)

Tips: Ask great questions. Don't use too many words. Think before you speak.

Wise Decision Maker

"One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Proverbs 12:26 (ESV)

Tips: Use scripture, not culture, for your standards.

Loyal Companion –

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

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

Tips: Show up in the tough times. Be consistent.

Selfless Spirit –

"Honor one another above yourself." Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Tips: Follow up. Encourage. Rejoice/mourn.

Gentle Honesty –

"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses." Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

Tips: Use this sparingly. Use a ladder; never a hammer.

Spiritual Counterpart –

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)