

Frequency Week 2

Bottom Line: **God's greatest motivation to talk with us is friendship**

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 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 15:13-15 NLT

Quick poll: when you're needing connection with a friend, which type of friend do you prefer? The one who might text you every now and then to see what's up? Maybe the occasional phone call? Or the friend that sits with you face to face just to visit and talk to you about anything and everything? THAT is the type of friend God wants to be to you. (Story about "texting" God)

For some of us, it blows our minds that God can be our friend! But through His Holy Spirit, we have been given friendship with the Creator of the Universe.

Some of us won't talk to Him because we feel like we can't. Like we aren't good enough, smart enough, holy enough to communicate with God. You don't have to be! He still wants to talk with you, not just hear what you need from Him, but just to have conversation. It's just like talking to a dear friend.

How is it that God wants to communicate in friendship with His people?

1. God does not speak to robots

- a. 2 ways of communication: mechanical and personal. We communicate with the TV by hitting the "on" button on the remote, we communicate with the car by turning the keys (or, in 2022, pressing the button), sometimes WE talk to our cars, or other people's, etc. There is nothing personal about it.
- b. God isn't trying to get you to do something and nothing else. You don't call people that you are trying to use to your advantage "friends." You talk to friends in a much more personal way (give examples)
- c. Many of us only talk to God for direction. Anyone ever been guilty of that? It makes sense to talk to God when we need Him to show us the way. But this isn't the most important aspect in talking to God. We can ask someone we barely know to do something for us. **Friendship is where we can just talk and listen without pressure or agenda.**

2. God speaks to people

- a. It doesn't take but reading a few pages of the Bible to find a conversation between God and another person. It is the PERSON of the Holy Spirit that speaks to us.

Check out this story from Genesis 18:

17 "Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the LORD asked. 18 "For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed

through him. ¹⁹ I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.” ²⁰ So the LORD told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. ²¹ I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know.” ²² The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the LORD remained with Abraham. ²³ Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? ²⁵ Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

²⁶ And the LORD replied, “If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake.”

²⁷ Then Abraham spoke again. “Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

And the LORD said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people there.”

²⁹ Then Abraham pressed his request further. “Suppose there are only forty?”

And the LORD replied, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the forty.”

³⁰ “Please don’t be angry, my Lord,” Abraham pleaded. “Let me speak—suppose only thirty righteous people are found?”

And the LORD replied, “I will not destroy it if I find thirty.”

³¹ Then Abraham said, “Since I have dared to speak to the Lord, let me continue—suppose there are only twenty?”

And the LORD replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”

³² Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?”

And the LORD replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

³³ When the LORD had finished his conversation with Abraham, he went on his way, and Abraham returned to his tent.

- b. We can’t deny that God speaks to His people! And for anyone that thinks this ability might have passed away with the apostles, check out what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit:

¹² “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.” – John 16:12-13 NLT

- c. He didn’t give us the Holy Spirit to be silent. He gave us the Holy Spirit to talk with us, to be our friend and companion. He speaks to us the same way as He spoke in the Bible – to our hearts, out of love.

3. God speaks to friends

¹¹ Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. – Exodus 33:11 NLT

- a. There is a reason we are human beings, made in the image of God. If God wanted to create people who couldn’t talk back – He would have! But He

wants you to talk to Him! He wants to hear about your day! He wants to hear your worship. He wants to hear your prayers. And guess what – He has a lot to say as well, if we simply listen for it.

- b. He wants to speak to you and be your friend even when you don't act right!

⁶And if someone asks, 'Then what about those wounds on your chest?' he will say, 'I was wounded at my friends' house!' – Zechariah 13:6 NLT

- c. Judas betrayed Him with a kiss and Jesus said, "Friend, why have you come?" Even in our dysfunction, He still calls us friend! That should blow us away!
- d. Being friends with God isn't something we have to strive for. It is woven into our identity as His children. Imagine if you never spoke to your children! Anyone in here have grown children that have become your friends? I can imagine it's a great feeling. That's the beauty of our multi-dimensional relationship with God. He's our Father, and we're His kids. He looks after and provides for us. But He's also our friend. He speaks to us, makes it known what He's doing in us, takes delight in us. What a gift.

What made you worth the sacrifice Jesus paid? God wants to be friends with you. He doesn't see friendship the way we do, where personalities have to jive, and there are expectations. When is the last time you just spoke to God as a friend? Let Him speak to you as a friend?

The most amazing things in my life haven't always been what God has done, but what He's said. What He says informs everything I ever hope to do. Sometimes He'll speak and give direction. Sometimes He'll speak to calm your fears. Sometimes He'll just speak because He's *personal*.