

## I am a Friend of God

Jesus communicated a very radical way of seeing God during the days He walked the Earth...being a friend of God. Unfortunately today it is still a radical way of seeing God because a lot of Christians do not see Him in that light. Not many people, including Christians, believe that this is actually possible. God, yes... Father, yes...King, yes...Leader, yes...but Friend? Some people do not see God as anything near a friend: He is Master, a Policeman, a far off old man with a long white beard...but not a Friend. There are others who say, "Yeah, I have heard that Jesus wants to be my Friend, but the thought of day-to-day friendship with God seems very unrealistic."

There seems to be two different Gods in the Bible: the Old Testament God and the New Testament God. But there is no difference. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, as the Hebrew writer declares. Most people in the Old Testament were fearful of God and could not imagine Him as a Friend, but there were some individual people within the Bible who did have a close and intimate relationship with God. The Prophet Isaiah says that God called Abraham, "*my friend.*"

At the start of the New Testament, God, in the person of Jesus, comes to Earth as a human and shares with humanity many perspectives of God, and what He is truly like. One of these perspectives Jesus shared was that God could be a Friend. He told His disciples that they were **no longer slaves, or servants, but were friends**. What a privilege to be called a friend of God, or a friend of Christ. This of course was unheard of by the Jewish culture and religion, except for Moses, who was said to, "*talk to God like a friend.*" Jesus reveals so much of what God was actually like so that now when we read the New Testament descriptions of God we can see the same perspective in the Old Testament through individual people's life stories like Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, and Job. This summer we will search out the meaning of being the friend of God of which Moses and Jesus spoke. But like any friendship each of us will need to pursue the friendship individually. Each of us will need to intentionally get to know God. Each of us will need to learn to **live in the grace** that God so lovingly and Friend-like gives to us.

Just consider for a moment how remarkable these words are, **friend of God**, and what a remarkable relationship they describe! Consider that a limited, physical, mortal being would be thought of by the all-powerful, immortal, all-knowing, supreme God as *His dearly beloved friend*. Also consider that an imperfect man, made from dust of the ground, would be viewed by the perfect Creator God composed of eternal spirit as one with whom He could have a warm, lasting and special friendship. The Ecclesiastical writer wrote, "A faithful friend is a strong defense; and he that has found such one, has found a treasure. (Ecc. 6:14)

### *Song - I Am A Friend of God*

*Who am I that you are mindful of me. That you hear me, when I call. Is it true that you are thinking of me. How you love me, it's amazing! (Who am I Lord) I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. He calls me friend. God Almighty. Lord of Glory. You have called me friend!*

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