

Friendship with God

Being a friend of God is probably one of the greatest blessings that any of us could desire. But it could also be possibly taken for granted. Hopefully, meditating on these Scriptures will give you great convictions about why you want to be God's friend. Slowly read each of these and dig into their contexts. Then write some thoughts about how they apply to you on a personal and practical level. Let the Scriptures speak to you about friendship with God.

1. Biblical Examples of Friendship with God

Moses' Friendship with God

Exodus 33:11 *The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*

Abraham's Friendship with God

2 Chronicles 20:7 *O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?*

Isaiah 41:8 – 9 *But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, "You are my servant"; I have chosen you and have not rejected you.*

James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

Job's Friendship with God

Job 16:18 – 21 *Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.*

Job 29:4 *Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house.*

False Claims of Friendship with God

Jeremiah 3:4 – 5 *Have you not just called to me: "My Father, my friend from my youth, will you always be angry? Will your wrath continue forever?" This is how you talk, but you do all the evil you can.*

James 4:4 *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?*

2. Jesus as a Friend

Matthew 11:19 *The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and 'sinners'." But wisdom is proved right by her actions.*

Matthew 26:50 *Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."*

Luke 5:20 *When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

Luke 12:14 *I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.*

John 11:11 *After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."*

John 15:13 – 15 *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

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3. Reconcile – to restore to friendship or harmony

- Romans 5:10 – 11** *For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:18 – 20** *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.*
- Ephesians 2:14 – 16** *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*
- Colossians 1:19 – 23** *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God, and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.*

Conclusions and Applications

Do you want God to be your friend? After meditating on these Scriptures, what is your conviction about the blessings of being God's friend? _____

Do you want to be a friend to God? What is your resolve about being His friend? _____

What is your motivation about helping others be reconciled with Him? _____

30-Day Challenge: Start off everyday with the thought of being a friend of God; remind yourself of that reality throughout the day; close the day with a reflection of how that impacted your day.

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