

God's Calling Requirements
Friendship with God
Part 23

“13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” (John 15:13-15)

The bible teaches us to make friend with God in order for us to walk in obedience with Him and live the life to the full that He promised to us. The bible admonish us not to have friendships with people but to keep our friendship with God who will teach us how to handle each and every relationship with the people that we come across in life. Our God is a jealous God and He does not want us to prefer people and relationships above our relationships with Him. In addition to that our friendship with the world and to people would most likely exposed us to dangers and might get harmed. Therefore God's word is keen to teach us to abide in our friendship with Him alone.

People they usually make friends for different reasons. It might be for acquaintance and for passing time and friends would be a source of entertainment. The Psalmist said to the Lord, ***“Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.” (Psalm 88:8)*** Acquaintance means friend. So here one of the purpose to have friend is for the purpose of acquaintance in order to spend time and have a fun or open discussion and heart to heart talk. But whom you find better than Jesus to meet and to trust, to open your heart and to talk?

Friends might be a source of troubles in your life.

A- They can be friend with you to get some benefit: “Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.” (Proverbs 19:6) So here the purpose of friendship is that to get something out of the relationship. People usually make friends to get some benefits. People they will become friends to influential peoples and leaders in order to get privileges, knowing that influential people are always having benefits and favor and support, so in making friends with them they are included in these privileges. Abner said to Ishboeth that he is giving benefit not only to the house of Saul but extending that even to the friends of Saul, ***“8 Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?” (2Samuel 3:8)*** ***“8 Abner was very angry because of what Ish-Bosheth said. So he answered, “Am I a dog's head—on Judah's side? This very day I am loyal to the house of your father Saul and to his family and friends. I haven't handed you over to David. Yet now you accuse me of an offense involving this woman!” (2Samuel 3:8 NIV)***

When you are poor no one you will find beside you. ***“20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.” (Proverbs 14:20)*** ***“11 My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar (Psalm 38:11 KJV)*** ***“20 My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.” (Job 16:20)*** ***“14 My kinsfolk have***

failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.” (Job 19:14 KJV) ***“19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.” (Job 19:19)*** ***“21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.” (Job 19:21)*** But better friend to you is Jesus, He is there to help you and support you in times of need.

B- Friends also are burden and are cause of troubles: “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24 KJV) ***A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly,*** your friends will require of you to be friendly to them, and they might ask you something that contradict the word of God or something that will affect your relationship with Christ. ***“A man with many friends may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)*** Friends will ultimately bring harms and damage. Therefore let us keep Jesus as a sole friend as God's word declares, ***“and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother;” “but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”***

C- Friends can pull you away from brothers and encourage you to do bad things: Judah moved away from his brothers and married a Canaanite woman due to an influence of a friend, ***“1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.” (Genesis 38:1-2)*** That same friend was with Judah when he went and slept with Tamar after his wife death. Let us read the story: ***“12 And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers* to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep. 14 And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face. 16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me? 17 And he said, I will send thee a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it? 18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand. And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him. 19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood. 20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not. 21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where is the harlot, that was openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this place. 22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, that there was no harlot in this place. 23 And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.” (Genesis 38:12-23)*** Such kinds of people whom you take as friend they will not only mislead you but will encourage you and will not stop you from doing wrong.

D- Friends can betray you: “But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.” (Judges 14:20) The one who was a friend to Samson is the one who betrayed him and took his wife. Friends who are not friend of Jesus will betray you.

E- Friends can be so malicious people who invents destruction: “1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. 4 And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. 5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. 6 So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. 7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. 9 And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. 10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. 12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. 13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. 14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. 15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.” (2Samuel 13:1-15) Jonadab was a very subtle man and taught Amnon and encouraged him to do evil. You might not be aware that bad friends, even among relatives, will teach you to do a frank evil thing.

F- Friends will hinder you from doing what is right: “12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.” (John 19:12) Pilate wanted to release Jesus, but the Jews took advantage of his relationship with Caesar to hinder him from doing so. Your friendship with certain people will make you side the crowds and condone and agree with their sins. Devil will use such relationships to hinder you from doing what is right.

G- Friend can cause Immorality of boy friend and girl friend: “Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.” (Hosea 3:1) Immorality will come out of the worldly friendship, but the bible speaks about marriage. Friendship used by devil to introduce immoralities. It starts with just friendship but later on Devil would inject immorality to the relationship.

H- Friends will grumble and resent when they are faced with the truth: “1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to

hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever* is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever* is right, that shall ye receive. 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way*: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own*? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?” (Matthew 20:1-15) In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard friends murmured against the goodman of the house when he faced them with the truth.

I- Friends will be used to introduce injustice: “20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.” (Acts 12:20) Herod again persuaded to do another injustice in his leadership, giving undeserved favor to the people of Tyre because they made friendship with the king's chamberlain, and that worked out things for their behalf. Many people they make friends and they will rely on friends to receive undeserved favor. Such things will promote injustice. Corruption and injustice in government are introduced through friendships.

J- Friends might betray you for the sake of money: “50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.” (Matthew 26:50) Judas came to Jesus and kissed him and it was a kiss of betrayal. Jesus knew about, that is why cynically He called Judas friend! “46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. 47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.” (Matthew 26:46-49) Although Jesus knew from where Judas came still he asked him. Jesus wanted to tell him that He knew that he received money to hand him over. People might behave in a very cheap way just for the sake of gaining some money out of their relationship with you.

K- Friends may entice you to sin against God and lead you to idol worship: “6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even

unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: 9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.” (Deuteronomy 13:6-11) Be careful of friends who will pull your leg and lead you to worship idols and sin against God. Satan will use such close people to introduce idol worship into your life and into the life of the church. Therefore be discerning. Resist the devil, be faithful to the Lord, and deal properly with that wicked friend.

L- You can blackmailed by a friend: *“17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. 18 A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.” (Proverbs 17:17-18)* If you don't guard your emotion, the love that you have toward a certain friend; he may use you and use your name to warranty him. He put you in the trouble and he escape out of it. Be very careful and don't guarantee others, *“Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to shake hands in pledge is safe.” (Proverbs 11:15 NIV)* *“1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.” (Proverbs 6:1-5)*

M- Friends may pay evil for good: *“12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. 13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. 14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. 15 But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:” (Psalm 35:12-15)* David treated people as his friends and he was praying and fasting for them, but they betrayed him and paid him evil for the good that he did to them. *“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” (Psalm 41:9)* Be careful not to make friend but instead have a relationship with people who has friendship with God. Job received ill treatment from his unfaithful friends, *“10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10)*

N- Be careful of friends who do not fear God: *“Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.” (Job 6:14 NIV)* *“To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.” (Job 6:14 KJV)* There are certain time God had put people beside and He expects from them to give you hand in trouble. But instead they will not do that. Put that in your mind and program yourself to fully trust God that He will be the one to take care of you in times of your trouble. Job said about his friends the following: *“21 For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid. 22 Did I say, Bring unto me? or, Give a reward for me of your substance? 23 Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty? 24 Teach*

me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred. 25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove? 26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind? 27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend. 28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie. 29 Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it. 30 Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?” (Job 6:21-30) Friends who are of no use in times of needs they called according to Job, *“ye dig a pit for your friend.” (Verse 27b)* *“11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.” (Job 2:11)* *“5 He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.” (Job 17:5)* *“3 Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.” (Job 32:3)* *“7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.” (Job 42:7)*

O- Those who trust on friends and not on God they will perish: God will cause ruin to those who are honoring friends more than God, *“Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumbling blocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish.” (Jeremiah 6:21)* *“And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them.” (Jeremiah 19:9)* People whom you keep as friends for the times of trouble, they will be the one to eat your flesh.

Q- The friends of the evil man will agree with him and push him to do evil that will ultimately cause him destruction: The friend of Haman pushed him to destroy Mordecai and ultimately he was destroyed with what they suggested to him, *“10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.” (Esther 5:10)* *“14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.” (Esther 5:14)* *“13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.” (Esther 6:13)* Finally Haman was hanged on the gallows that he prepared according to the suggestions of his own friends, *“9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.” (Esther 7:9-10)* If you live in a wicked way and keeps friends whom you think they will support your evil deeds, then just be sure that the days will come and God will use them to punish you. The prophet Jeremiah prophesied to king Zedekiah about that when he found him trusting and relying on friend to get delivered from God's judgment, *“22 And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house*

shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back." (Jeremiah 38:22) "2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies." (Lamentations 1:2)

Jeremiah also prophesied destruction to Pashur the priest and to his friends who were around him supporting his wickedness, "1 Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. 2 Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD. 3 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib. 4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword. 5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon. 6 And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies." (Jeremiah 20:1-6)

R- *The friends of the evil man will ultimately get executed for their sin in supporting the evil men:* Friends who supported Haman conspiracy where ultimately got executed by the people of God. Another example of that, when Zimri used by God to execute judgment on the house of King Baasha, Zimri also executed all his friends, " 8 *In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. 9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. 10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. 11 And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he slew all the house of Baasha: he left him not one that pisseth against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends. 12 Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, 13 For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities." (1Kings 16:8-13)*

My dear and beloved: "5 *Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. 6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. 7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.*" (Micah 7:5-7) Do not be worry if you don't have friends because Jesus can go with you to any place and solve your problem. He may send you to certain people who will accomplish to you what you need, or He may go Himself and finish the matter to you and you don't need even to move. God's calling for you today is to have and to keep your friendship with Him. It will be done to you as you believe, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I understood well your word. I repent of my being friendly with the world and trusting the people favor. Lord I am coming back to you, I want you to be my only friend. Cleanse me and build me according to your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

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