

## HOW TO BE GOD'S FRIEND

### READ PSALM 25:14 (NLT)

*“Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises.”*

**POINT 1** The primary qualification for Friendship with God is obedience to His commandments, and His voice.

### READ JOHN 15:14-15

**Comment on this part.** *“...You are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you.”*

**To your audience:** Here are some instructions for maintaining your friendship with God.

### FIRST INSTRUCTION:

Walk **before** God – In Transparency. You cannot hide anything from God. He asks you to have no hidden motives in the way you conduct your life.

### READ GENESIS 17:1 (KJV)

*“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*

### NOW READ GENESIS 24:40 (NLT)

*“You will,’ he told me, ‘for the LORD, in whose presence I have walked, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must get a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family.’”*

### SECOND INSTRUCTION:

Walk **after** God – In Servanthood. Make a commitment to God that you serving Him will be the most important thing in your life. Without compromise of any kind, ever, follow the instructions you will find in DEUTERONOMY 13:4.

### READ DEUTERONOMY 13:4 (NLT)

*“Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.”*

### THIRD INSTRUCTION:

Walk **with** God – in Fellowship. Discover the joys and value in making yourself a friend of God by walking with Him. This means to include Him in your day, step by step and hour by hour. Listen for His voice and do your best to let your attitudes become more like His. Listen to the following Scriptures.

### **READ MICAH 6:8 (NLT).**

*(Micah 6:8 NLT) “No, O people, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”*

#### **Comment on these three points in Micah 6:8:**

1. Do the right thing even when you feel tempted to do the wrong thing. (Comment on this to the people you are preaching to or teaching.)
2. Learn to love being merciful toward others. Learn to love caring about what happens to others. Exercise it with an appreciation for how it can change their situations, and also change you.
3. Walk in humility with God. Let the same attitude be in you that was in Jesus. He was humble but not timid. He was bold and made the truth known.

**There were two men in Old Testament times who were examples to all of us. Let’s look at them in the Scriptures.**

### **READ GENESIS 5:24 (NLT).**

#### **This is talking about Enoch.**

*(Genesis 5:24 NLT) “He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life. Then suddenly, he disappeared because God took him.”*

### **READ GENESIS 6:9 (NLT).**

*(Genesis 6:9 NLT) “This is the history of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless man living on earth at the time. He consistently followed God’s will and enjoyed a close relationship with him.”*

Noah lived a righteous life. To be righteous means to have an attitude and corresponding actions that please God. He was without blame for hurting others or for offending God. He enjoyed a close relationship with God.

**All three of the Scriptures we just read speak of walking with God. If you allow them to, they will encourage you to do the same. Spend some time looking at them when you get home.**

### **FOURTH INSTRUCTION:**

**Walk in God. This is talking about walking in closeness or intimacy with Him.**

### **READ COLOSSIANS 1:27 (NLT)**

*(Colossians 1:27 NLT) “For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.”*

### **READ COLOSSIANS 3:3 (NLT)**

*(Colossians 3:3 NLT) “For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

**Comment on these two Scriptures.**

**POINT 2 There is one thing that will disqualify you from having friendship with God. That is putting friendship with the world and all its habits and ways of living.**

**READ THE SECOND PART OF JAMES 4:4 (NLT)**

*(James 4:4b NLT) "...Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God."*

**Comment on this Scripture.**

**POINT 3 What can we learn about God's friendship toward us that will help us be better people and draw closer to Him?**

**1. God's Friendship is rooted in relationship.**

*(Exodus 33:11 NLT) "Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, stayed behind in the Tent of Meeting."*

**Comment on the value of good relationships.**

**2. God's Friendship is eternal.**

*(2 Chronicles 20:7 NLT) "O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham?"*

The King James Translation says, "*of Abraham, your friend forever.*"

**Comment on the value of God's eternal commitment toward His friends.**

**3. God's Friendship extends to the sinner.**

*(Luke 7:34 NLT) "And I, the Son of Man, feast and drink, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!'"*

**Comment on the value of God's love toward those listening who have not yet given Him their lives.**

**4. God's Friendship is sealed (guaranteed) with the sacrifice of His own life on the cross.**

*(John 15:13 NLT) "And here is how to measure it--the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends."*

**Comment on the value of Christ's death on the cross. Make it direct and personal toward the people listening to you.**

**4. God's Friendship knows no limits.**

*(Matthew 26:50 NLT) “Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.”  
Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.”*

**Comment on God will do whatever is necessary on His part to maintain His friendship with you. He only asks you to do your part, as we have learned from this message.**

**ALTAR CALL:**

**POINT 4 God is committed to friendship with you through the power of forgiveness.**

- 1. Today, your part may be to ask Him to forgive you of your sins and welcome you into eternal friendship with Him. Won't you come to the altar and do so?**
- 2. You may now realize some things have to change. Won't you come to the altar and make a commitment to God to change them?**