

Friendship with Jesus

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Everyone wants to have friends!

In our busy, self-centred world it is very easy to be lonely. Lots of people wish that they could have even one friend.

The good news is that there is someone who wants to be our friend: the Lord Jesus. There is no friend like Him because He will always love you, always care, and will always be on your side! After all He gave His life for you!

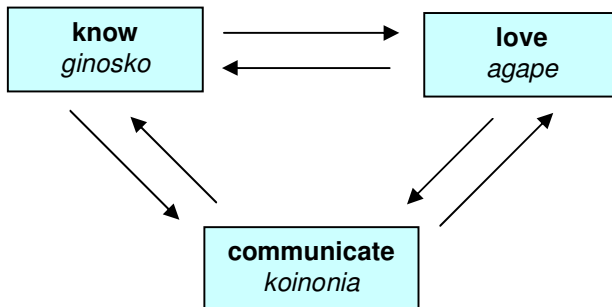
There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7.

What is friendship?

Most of us have one soul-mate; a few close friends, and many acquaintances. The difference between these relationships is in how much we know each other, and how much we love each other. And that is determined by the time we spend with each other and how deeply we communicate.



- The more we communicate the more we know each other.
- The more we know each other the more we will communicate.
- The more we know each other the more we love.
- The more we love the more we know each other.
- The more we love each other the more we will want to communicate.
- The more we communicate the more we will love each other.



Building friendships with people, and with Jesus takes time!
He who would have friends must show himself friendly.
Proverbs 18:24.

Spending time communicating, loving and getting to know your soul-mate, friends and acquaintances is worth it! But developing your friendship with Jesus is even better! You will find an incredible richness in your relationship that will surpass anything else. You may be alone at times but you will never be lonely!

Jesus says: *Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* Matthew 28: 20. *Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.* Hebrews 13:5.

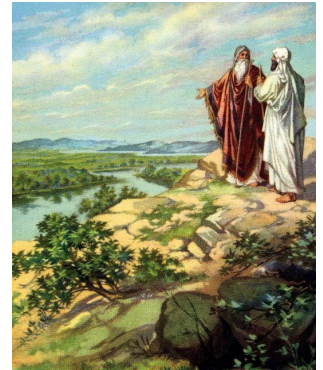
What is friendship with Jesus like?

Friendship with Jesus is a little different to friendship with people. That's because your relationship is spiritual, rather than physical. The Bible gives us many examples of this kind of friendship. We can learn things from each of these examples that will help us develop our friendship with Jesus.

1. Abraham

- **Righteousness is important.**

Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend. James 2:23. Through the Cross God made you righteous in His sight. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21) but you need to walk in this righteousness by turning from sin, and continually choosing to live God's way. If you sin it will hurt your friendship with Jesus. He won't give up on you, but you may be tempted to give up on Him. (Which is rather stupid as your friendship with Him is much more important than whatever you wanted to get from your sinning!). Maintain your friendship with Jesus by living His way: by doing what is right. *If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.* 1 John 1:7.



- **God blesses His friends.**

Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." Genesis 18:17-19. God was saying, "I'm not going to do anything without first telling my friend Abraham. Because he is my friend I want to really bless him and his family."

- **God protects His friends.**

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? 2 Chronicles 20:7.

- **God blesses the descendants of His friends.**

But you, 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. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:8-10.

2. Moses

- **God speaks to His friends.**

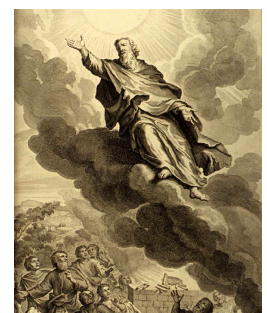
Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped at the entrances to their tents. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Exodus 33: 7-11. In a friendship relationship with Jesus you can communicate with Him in a wonderful and intimate way!



3. Enoch

- **God enjoys His friends.**

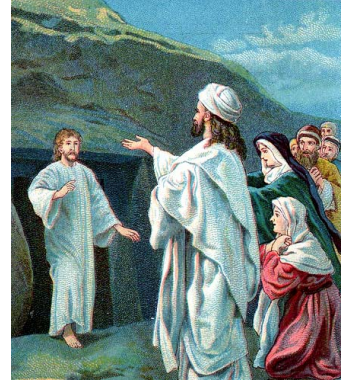
Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:24. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5. Enoch pleased God so much that one day the Lord took him off so they could be together forever.



4. Lazarus

- **Jesus really cares for His friends.**

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." "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" John 11:11, 34-36.



How can we have a friendship relationship with Jesus?

Jesus wants to be His friends! He wants to draw us into a loving, personal and meaningful relationship that lasts for eternity. So what can we do to have this kind of relationship?

- **Accept Him as Saviour**

To all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12,13.

- **Love Him**

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

- **Spend time with Him**

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18,19. As we spend time with Him we become more like Him!

- **Listen to Him**

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:27-28.

- **Keep Him first in your life**

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matthew 6:24

Don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4

- **Do what He wants**

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because servants do not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:12-17. Servants do what they are told out of fear or respect; but friends do what pleases their friend. When you are in a friendship relationship with the Lord, everything you do will aim to glorify Him. This really pleases Him, but it is also great for you, because your life will then have great meaning and purpose.

There is nothing better than having a friendship relationship with Jesus!

He who would have friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24