

The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Days 11&12

Becoming Best Friends with God

What does it mean to be friends with God?

“He who wishes to be a friend of God, and a brother and son of Christ, must do something more than other men, that is, to consecrate heart and mind themselves, and to stretch up his thoughts towards God. In this way God secretly gives life and help to the heart, and entrusts Himself to it.” – Fifty Spiritual Homilies of St. Macarius

Examples:

- **Moses**

“So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”- Exodus 33:11

- **Abraham**

“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.”- Isaiah 41:8

So What?

- Why should we desire to be friends with God?
- “¹⁹ We love [\[a\]](#)Him because He first loved us.” – 1 John 4: 19
- “¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”- John 15: 15
- Thanks to God’s grace and love, we can now have a personal friendship with God.

Becoming Best Friends of God

- Through Constant Conversation
- Through Continual Meditation
- Be Honest with God
- Obey God in Faith
- Desire Friendship with God Most

Constant Conversation

- While daily quiet time and attending church every week are necessary, a true friendship with God requires including Him in every activity throughout your day (e.g., working, studying, shopping, etc.).
- “Pray without Ceasing,” – 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Including God in everyday activities can be made by asking Him for guidance, help, or blessing when starting a new activity or encountering a problem.

Constant Conversation

- Common misconception:

- *“The only way to spend time with God is when you are alone.”*

Spending time with God can be anytime if He is invited to be a part of your tasks.

Quiet time with God is still necessary

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” – Mat 6:6

Jesus Prayer



“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.”

Through Continual Meditation

- Meditating on God's Word is vital to establishing a relationship with Him.
- It is impossible to be God's friend apart from knowing what He says.
- *To know what He says, frequent reading of the Bible (His Word) is necessary.*
- *"Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord," 1 Samuel 3:21.*
- "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food," Job 23:12.
- *When reading the Bible, develop the habit of reviewing and thinking about what you read.*

Honesty with God

- In the Bible, friends of God were honest about their feelings with God.
- Ex:
 - *The Book of Psalms*
 - *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?
2O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;
And in the night season, and am not silent. (Psalm 22: 1-2)*
 - *Jesus Prayer in the Garden* (“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:39)

Honesty with God

- God speaking to Moses about the Israelites (Exodus 33)

For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ⁶ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.' " ⁶So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.

Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' ¹³Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

- In a relationship with God, we must be completely honest about our abilities and feelings

Choose to Obey God in Faith

- “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:14
- We should obey God not out of fear and duty, but out of love.
- If we lose that love and only go through the motions of spirituality out of duty, God may use pain or other challenges to help redirect us back to Him
- Small acts of obedience are pleasing to God.
- “So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.”- I Samuel 15:22

Desire Friendship with God Most

- Longing to know Him and be with Him.
- “One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.”- Psalm 27:4
- Desire to know God may lead to struggle and hardship
 - *Jacob wrestling with God*
- It is not a feeling that is suddenly felt. It is an active decision and struggle that we need to go through to become friends of God.

The Purpose Driven Life

Day 13 - Worship that Pleases God
&

Day 14- When God seems Distant

**Love the Lord your God with *all*
your heart and with *all* your soul
and with *all* your mind and with
all your strength.**

Mark 12:30

The Four Characteristic of Worship that pleases God:

- God is pleased when our worship is accurate
- God is pleased when our worship is authentic
- God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful
- God is pleased when our worship is practical

1. God is pleased when our worship is accurate

- To “Worship in truth” means to worship God as He is truly revealed in the Bible
- It is important to recognize when we are creating our own ideas of the kind of God we would like to worship and our own comfortable image of God. Instead we need to worship based on the truth of Scriptures not our own opinions.

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true Worshipers will Worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to Worship Him

John 4:23



Are we deciding what we take from the Bible and
what to leave behind based on our liking?



2. God is pleased when our worship is authentic

- When we worship God looks past our words to see the attitude of our hearts
- God gave us emotions so we can worship Him with a deep feeling. These emotions should be genuine, not faked.
- There is no “one- size- fits all” approach to worship and friendship with God.

For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at heart

1 Samuel 16:7



What is our main target when we are praying?



3. God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful

- *Love your God with all your mind (Matthew 22:37).*
- We choose with our mind; we decide to love Him
- Thinking about God at all times
- If worship is mindless, it is meaningless. We must engage our minds.
- God is not interested in half hearted commitment, partial obedience, and the leftovers of your time
- Our God is a God of detail

Let all things be done decently and in order

1 Corinthians 14:40



Are we only thinking about God at church?



4. God is pleased when our worship is practical

- In worship we are to 'offer our bodies as a *living sacrifices*'. Now, we usually associate the concept of "sacrifice" with something dead, but God wants us to be a living sacrifice. He wants us to live for Him
- Putting others needs before our own
- When Jesus said, "Love God with all your Strength," He pointed out that worship takes effort and energy. It is not always convenient or comfortable, and sometimes worship is a act of the will - a willing sacrifice.

1 will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifice that have cost me nothing

2 Samuel 24:24



Are we offering life with God or some time with God?



Day 13 - Worship That Pleases God

God wants *all* of you.



Does God ever seem distant?



Day 14 - When God Seems Distant

“For God has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’”

Hebrews 13:5

Relationship with God

The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of pain, thanking God during a trial, trusting Him when tempted, surrendering while suffering, and loving Him when He seems distant.

God is real, no matter how you feel.



- Tell God exactly how you feel
- Focus on who God is - His unchanging Nature
- Trust God to keep His promise
- Remember what God has already done for you

Tell God exactly how you feel

Pour out your heart to God. Load every emotion that you're feeling.

- Believe in God
- Believe that God is listening to your prayers
- Believe that God would let us say what we feel and still love us.

Focus on who God is - His unchanging Nature

Hang on to God regardless of the circumstances and how we feel.

When Job's life fell apart, and God was silent, Job still found things he could praise God for:

That He is all- powerful

Job 42:2

That He is good and Loving

Job 10:12

He is in control

Job 34:13

That He notices every detail of my life

Job 23:10

He will save me

Job 19:25

That He has a plan for my life

Job 23:14



Is it only easy to connect with God when
everything is going well in our lives?



Trust God to keep His promise

During times of spiritual dryness we are called to patiently rely on the promises of God, not our own emotions, and realize that God is taking you to a deeper level of maturity.

Circumstances cannot change the character of God. God's grace is still in full force; He is still for you, even when you don't feel it.

***“I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread”
Job 23:12***

Remember what God has already done for you

Jesus gave everything so we could have everything.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

2 Corinthians 5:21

