

Close to Him = Close to Them

- **QUOTE:** *The health of our vertical relationship with God is reflected in our horizontal relationships with people*
- **I John 1:7 NLT** - *But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

WEEK FOUR: Friendship 101 Pt 2

VI. FRIENDSHIPS AFFECT FAVOR

- **Proverbs 13:20 GNT** – *“Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make friends with stupid people, you will be ruined.”*
- **Proverbs 13:20 MSG** – *“Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.”*
- **QUOTE:** *Much of what God does in the earth is through the vehicle of favor. Don't allow the favor on your life to be diminished because of the foolishness of someone you call “friend.”*
- The wrong friendship can make you lose favor, but the right friendship can cause your favor to increase.
- **II Kings 3:6 – 7 MSG** *So King Joram set out from Samaria and prepared Israel for war. His first move was to send a message to Jehoshaphat king of Judah: “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Would you join me and fight him?” 7 “I'm with you all the way,” said Jehoshaphat. “My troops are your troops, my horses are your horses.*
- **II Kings 3:14 – 15 MSG** *Elisha said, “As GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies lives, and before whom I stand ready to serve, if it weren't for the respect I have for Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I wouldn't give you the time of day. But considering—bring me a minstrel.” (When a minstrel played, the power of GOD came on Elisha.)*

VII. TRUE FRIENDS REFUSE TO GIVE IN TO SELFISHNESS

- **I Samuel 20:30 – 31 NIV** *Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? 31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!”*
- True friends must do what is best for one another without the selfish tendency to look out for “me.”
- True friends won't brag or flaunt their successes in the face of their friend.
- **QUOTE:** *We should prophesy the greatness of our friends and celebrate their victories.*
- **Romans 12:15** – *“Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that do weep.”*

VIII. FRIENDSHIPS TAKE COMMITMENT & SACRIFICE

- **John 15:13 NIV** - *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*
- Often friendship requires us to lay our life (our agenda) down for a friend.
- **Ruth 1:16 – 17 NIV** *But Ruth replied, “Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”*
- When we factor Commitment and Sacrifice into our friendships, it requires our circle of close friends to decrease, because...

- **QUOTE:** *Trying to be friends with people God has not assigned us to, will exhaust the time, energy, and resources needed to be a real friend to the people God has actually placed in our lives.*

IX. FRIENDSHIP IS BUILT ON TRUST

- Where there is no trust, there is no friendship. Trust is not something that can be granted upon request. Trust must be earned over time. That is why it is impossible to call someone your good friend when you've only known them for a short time in a limited capacity. And that is why it is supremely dangerous to marry someone with whom you have a very limited experience base.

3 Keys to Strengthening Trust in Your Friendships

1. Be Honest With Your Friend

- **Ephesians 4:25 NIV** – *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor; for we are all members of one body.*

2. Don't Share Your Friend's Confidential Information

- **Proverbs 11:13 NIV** - *A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.*

3. Keep Your Promises

- **Psalm 15:4b GNT** – *...They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost.*

X. FRIENDSHIP SHOULD EXTEND TO THE NEXT GENERATION

- David & Jonathan's covenant was with each other's house (generation).
- **II Samuel 9:1,7 MSG** - *One day David asked, "Is there anyone left of Saul's family? If so, I'd like to show him some kindness in honor of Jonathan." ...
7 "Don't be frightened," said David. "I'd like to do something special for you in memory of your father Jonathan. To begin with, I'm returning to you all the properties of your grandfather Saul. Furthermore, from now on you'll take all your meals at my table."*