

Hear God - Part 4 ~ Tower 3 - Sacred Friendships

“Friendship is a much underestimated aspect of spirituality. It’s every bit as significant as prayer and fasting. Like the sacramental use of water and bread and wine, friendship takes what’s common in human experience and turns it into something holy.”

Eugene Peterson

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain...

Proverbs 10:11 (NLT)

Definition of Sacred Friendship:

A sacred friend is a spiritually _____ person who does not feed your dysfunctions, but feeds you _____ so you can handle with _____, _____, and _____ whatever life might throw at you.

¹⁵ Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. ¹⁶ And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. ¹⁷ Thus he said to him, “Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also.” ¹⁸ So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house.

1 Samuel 23:15-18 (NASB)

4 Principles of Sacred Friendship

1. Even the _____ people need sacred friendship.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

2. We must make a _____ effort to develop sacred friendships.

And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David...

1 Samuel 23:16a (NASB)

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly...

Proverbs 18:24 (KJV)

The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin.

Proverbs 18:24 (AMP)

3. The purpose of a sacred friendship is to _____ each other in Christ.

...and encouraged him in God.

1 Samuel 23:16b (NASB)

4. A friendship stays sacred when we _____ the promises of God to each other.

(Jonathan) said to him, “Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you.”

1 Samuel 23:17 (NASB)

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What kind of anchor are you?
2. What are some ways a person can feed someone’s dysfunction?
3. What are some ways a person can feed someone Scripture?
4. What are some other ways you can invest in a friend now?
5. Do you have a sacred friend? Are you a sacred friend? (Both of those things are necessary!) If the answer is “no” to either or both questions, what are you going to do about it?