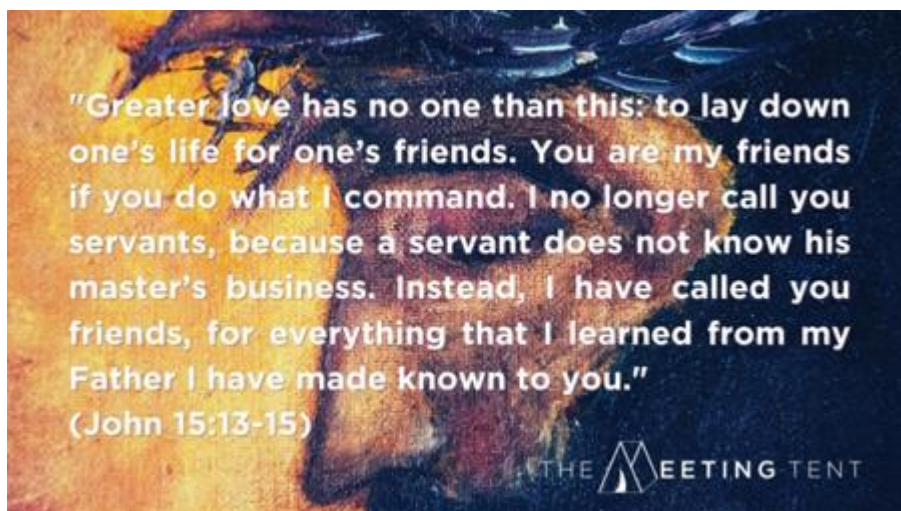
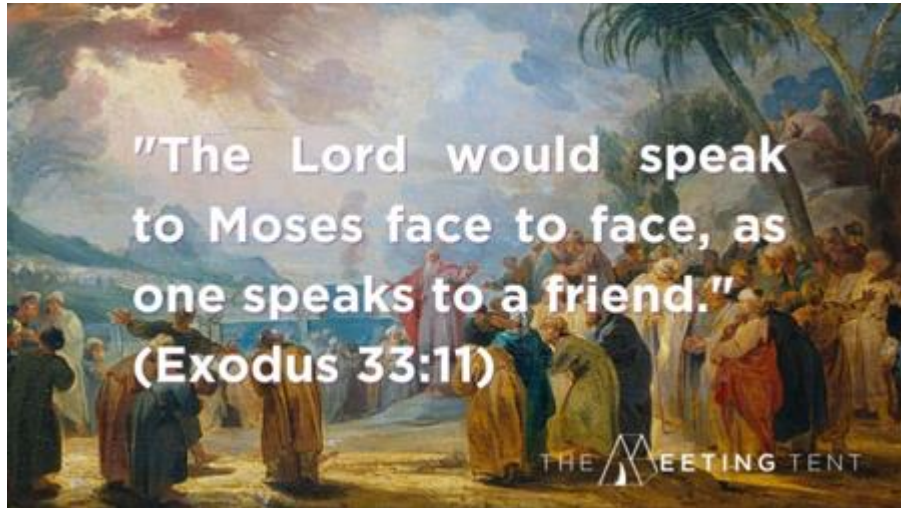


HOW TO BE A FRIEND OF GOD-FINAL PART

Has God ever indicated in the Bible through His word that He wants us to be friends with Him? Yes, both in the OT and NT. He wants us near Him/near His heart. That's what true friends are to each other.



So, what does it mean to be a friend of God?

In broad terms, 'true friendship' is a kind of relationship defined by certain key qualities. Each of us differs in how we regard specific friendships with various people. No two friendships are the same.

However, I believe most of us will agree that ***having a true friend generally involves, at the very least, a genuine desire to:***

- ***trust each other.***
- ***be honest, from the heart;***
- ***give comfort, especially in times of need.***

Similarly, God expresses His desire for us to enter such a close and loving friendship with Him, shaped by all the above qualities.

Friendship with God has a unique feature unlike friendships with a human friend. **It earns a unique Grace and Favour from God.**

But !!! Let's not forget our place.

First, God's desire to be friends with us absolutely **does not** equate to us treating Him as we would our ordinary human friends, our fleshy equals.

Instead, we must begin by never, ever forgetting that **God is God.**

This means **always having a healthy fear (i.e. reverence) for Yahweh.** He is the one and only God (2 Samuel 7:22) who is absolutely righteous (Psalm 119:137), holy (Isaiah 6:3), timeless (Revelation 1:8), Almighty (Genesis 49:25), the builder of everything (Hebrews 3:4), the unfailing ruler of heaven and earth (Genesis 14:19)...

In short, while God does indeed welcome us to be His friends, we must at the same time *always* hold fast to rightfully worshipping the unending power of our divine Creator. And never lose sight of that.

Finally -Friendship, especially with God is a two-way process.

We hope to have dependable friends who also feel they can depend on us – with confidence and trust.

Likewise, God wants to trust us, too!

He wishes us to seek, obey, and rely on His guidance on things that matter to His heart, small or big.

In so doing, each of us can slowly be entrusted with more (Luke 16:10). This increase in trust is exactly how friendship grows over time!

Once again, God's desire to trust isn't simply limited to 'big name' people like Moses (Numbers 12.7). Instead, He extends this relational invitation to each of us.

My dear people of God. Let's begin this journey of being a FRIEND OF GOD.

Love & Blessings

Ps Hilda

(Compiled from notes from people who have experienced this friendship with God)

