

FAITH Walk

CHOOSE THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO

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Our Vision : Love God and Love People

On Friendship - Jose Joseph



When we think of friendship many thoughts come to our mind. For those who have not experienced betrayal of a friend, it can be quite heart-warming to think of friendship. The characteristics of friendship are mainly understanding and sympathy. A friend is someone with whom you could honestly share an opinion or thought without fear of ridicule. Friendship is necessary for an individual's emotional development. Studies have shown

that friendships create a sense of happiness and promote good health. It takes a friend to bring you out of an emotional depression and lift your spirit when you are down.

Aristotle said friendship (*philia*) is itself a virtue, or involves virtue. He said that if friends keep similar virtuous character, then, friendship will be enduring. It is necessary to attach virtue to friendship to make it true and lasting, as much as moral and ethical values to human enterprise to make it truly successful.

6 Most important words of Friendship

6. I made a mistake
5. You did a good job
4. What do you think?
3. After you, please
2. Thank you
1. "We" instead of "I"

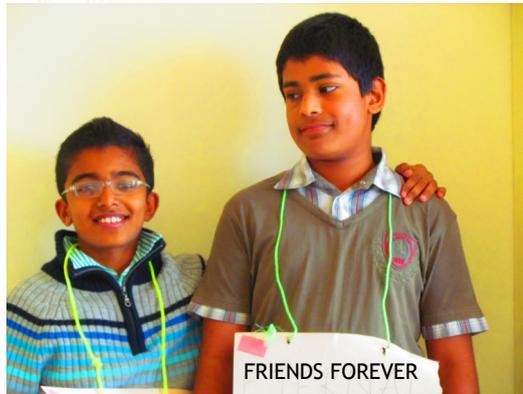
WRITE TO US : faithwalk@pfccindia.org

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When God gave Israel the moral and ethical framework to build a nation from a people delivered from slavery, He wanted to raise its standard over all the nations of the world. “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.” Duet 28:1. In the same way a friendship based on the precepts of God will be lasting and fulfilling, and those that are contrary to His principles will lead to ruin and despair. “One who has unreliable friends soon come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Prov. 18:24

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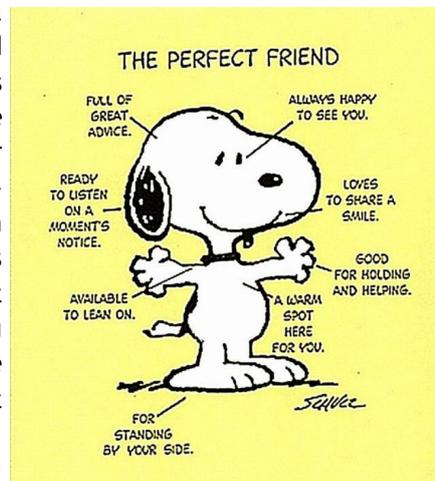


Friends tend to rub off their behavior and thinking onto each other. That is why it is important who we choose as friends. “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.” Prov. 22:24,25. This means that you could get yourself in trouble by keeping company with people on a short fuse. Likewise we are also not to keep company with the rebellious.” My son, fear both the LORD and the king, and don’t keep company with rebels.” Prov. 24:21. The rebellious do not listen to wisdom of their elders. They are unwilling to listen to instruction. We are to avoid the company of a gossip. No matter how interesting the tale carried by him or her. “A gossip betrays confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.” Prov. 20:19.

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Similarly, a scorner who is a proud and haughty person, should be avoided. "Blessed is the man that does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful." Psalm 1:1. Do not consent to the enticement of bad friends. Prov. 1.10.

Jesus too had friends. The friends He made were from all walks of life. There were fishermen, a tax-collector, a physician and even a zealot. He chose His friends, they did not choose Him. This is because whatever He did, He did under the directive of His Father in heaven. The intention of His friendship was the fulfillment of the will of the Father. "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you." John 15:16. As a true friend He shared all that was valuable to Him.



Jesus himself defined true friendship. "Greater love has no one than this; that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. This laying down one's life for a friend entails denial of one's own comfort. It involves the going of the extra mile, and not keeping account of the cost incurred. For the sake of friendship with man, the LORD stepped into our lives leaving the comfort of Heaven. Thus we learn from God what true friendship means. In His friendship with Abraham the LORD shows remarkable forthrightness, this was true also of His friendship with Moses. He could be convinced by the arguments of a mere mortal, if it made good sense in the economy of salvation. - Continued →

We become like the friends we keep. “Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Cor 15:33. In the second book of his confessions, Augustine says that in his unconverted days he found himself in bad company, and began to steal things. Stealing not for the need of a thing, but for the pleasure he derived from the sin of stealing. He said that he would not have stolen anything had he not been in the company of others who could share in his sin. The same Augustine after a change of heart wrote “I know I can safely entrust my thoughts and considerations to those who are aflame with Christian love and have become faithful friends to me. For I am entrusting them not to another human, but to God in whom they dwell and by whom they are who they are.”

May we find true friends and after finding them, hold fast in a friendship centered in God, through all the storms of life. As G.K. Chesterton said “We are all in the same boat, in a stormy sea, and we owe each other a terrible loyalty”. - Jose Joseph

HUMOR



Food for Thought



*A country that does not teach values multiplies laws.
Those who seek the approval of God do not seek the applause of men.*

No one becomes a champion overnight, and a child does not learn to walk in a single day. It is dedicated, determined & disciplined training that makes one a champion.

It is not mountains we conquer but ourselves
- Edmund Hillary

Hurt me with the truth but never comfort me with a lie.
- Proverbs: 27:7

Testimonies

Like all couples, we were hoping we would be blessed with a baby sometime after marriage. But when we realized more than a year had passed since we'd been trying for a child with nothing to show, we headed to the doctor. While all medical tests pointed to the fact that there was nothing wrong with either of us, we were still left waiting for quite sometime. I remember feeling so disheartened that in the middle of the night as I shed tears. I echoed Hannah's prayer and asked that God would give me a son, and I would dedicate him to the Lord's service.



As time passed by, I found myself wondering whether there really was something wrong with me. There was nothing to do, but trust that God would remember what I had asked Him for.

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In August 2011, we met a man from Bangalore. We had no idea that he was a prophet, and he said to us "God wants you both to know that He is going to give you a son. He also specifically wants you (Rini) to know, that there is nothing wrong with you. In one and a half years, you will have a baby boy in your arms." Hallelujah!

Within 6 months, I became pregnant again. We kept praying for God's protection over this child. Praise God that on 9th of September 2013, God blessed us with the promised son. We named him John Zach Abraham. 'John', to remind us that God is gracious, and 'Zach', as a testimony to the fact that 'God remembered' His Promise.

God never forgets!

- Rini Abraham

Testimonies



Oh, give thanks to the Lord! 1 Chronicles 16:8

For two years in a row I have been receiving a disappointing increments. This year when I received my disappointing increment letter I just prayed over it instead of reacting to the situation, in my usual way. I prayed that God would give me the patience to forgive all those involved and instead surrendered the letter to Lord Jesus our 'God of miracles' who multiplied 5 loaves of bread to feed 5000. Our JEHOVAH-JIREH is able to provide for all of my needs with this little amount.

As I again looked into the letter I realised there was a typing error. Meekly I informed my boss about it and took the opportunity to request him to cross check the letter as the mere change of mistake would not impact my salary in anyway. All the while as I continued to work with my boss I looked at the Lord and prayed to give me the strength to be patient and keep a stable attitude, not gossip with other colleagues and cry over anybody and everybody's shoulder.

Our God is faithful indeed, He answered. I was informed that there was an error in the calculation impacting the % of increment also. As compared to last year I got a better raise.

- Sheeba Jose

Is anything too hard for the LORD ? Gen 18:14

!!Excuses Excuses Excuses!!



1. Business man's excuse

"I have just bought a field and I must go and see it. Please excuse me" Lk.14:18

Fact: No one buys a field without seeing it first

2. Farmer's Excuse

"I have bought 5 yoke of Oxen, and I'm on my way to try it out. Please excuse me"- Lk 14.19

Fact: Farmers thoroughly check the Oxen before the purchase is done.



3. Family man's excuse

"I just got married, So I can't come" - Lk.14.20

Fact: seems to be genuine. But upon closer examination, it would have been a great way to spend time in the company of friends.



4. Lazy man's excuse

" the sluggard says " there is a lion outside" or " I will be murdered outside" - Pr.22.13

Fact: There is neither a lion or a murderer lurking outside to kill the sluggard.



5. Reluctant man's excuse

"who am I, that I should go..." - Ex.3.11

Fact : If God called you to do a job who are you to say "who am I?"



6. Timid man's excuse.

"How can I save Israel, My clan is the weakest in Manasseh and I am the least in my family" - Judges 6.15

Fact: If God says "you are a mighty man of Valour" why pretend you are small & weak.



7. Blame shifters excuse

"The man said the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it' - Gen. 3.12

- Ps. Raju Thomas



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Announcements



- **6th December from 7pm–9pm : Monthly Prayer**
(In lieu of prayer on 7th December morning)

- **24th December Evening
Christmas outreach Drama
“THE SEARCH”
& Worship Service**
(Volunteers needed)



- **25th December: Singles Christmas
Lunch**

(People who would like to host them
please sign-up, Singles will be assigned
a host)



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Love God and Love People

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