

2023 DANIEL FAST

R.E.A.L.

Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for

DAY 5

James 2:23 [The Voice Translation] *That's what Scripture means when it says, "Abraham entrusted himself to God, and God credited him with righteousness." And living a faithful life earned Abraham the title of "God's friend."*

The word "friend" in the dictionary means: *one attached to another by affection or esteem; a favored companion.* I believe God has great affection for us as His children. Can you see yourself as a "favored companion" of the Lord? You should because He does. "Friend" in the Greek language means: *dear, loved, and beloved.* God loves us and He calls us friend.

Our goal this year, not just during the Daniel Fast, both as a church and as individuals, is to make new friendships and strengthen existing relationships. Maybe, rekindle some passed friendships. Our first priority is improving and cultivating our relationship with God and to see ourselves as God's friend, just like Abraham. As we live a faithful life, a life of faith, I believe God is pleased and He is drawn to us...His friend.

Throughout the 21 days, as you pray, read, and worship, ask the Lord to give you a new sense of who you are in relationship to God, your heavenly Father. Ask for clarity and boldness to receive and express that you are God's friend. He loves you; He believes in you; He has great things in store for you. Entrust yourself to the Lord, allow that love and mercy of God to help you see and know, "*I am a friend of God!*"

It's time to build Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for!

Worship Song:

"Friend Of God" – Israel Houghton

<https://youtu.be/UI0cgUKMqRs>

Scripture Readings:

John 15:14-15 [New International Version] “*You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*”

John 3:27-29 [The Living Bible] *John replied, “God in heaven appoints each man's work. 28 My work is to prepare the way for that man so that everyone will go to Him. You yourselves know how plainly I told you that I am not the Messiah. I am here to prepare the way for Him—that is all. 29 The crowds will naturally go to the main attraction — the bride will go where the bridegroom is! A bridegroom's friends rejoice with Him. I am the Bridegroom's friend, and I am filled with joy at His success.”*

Exodus 33:11 [New International Version] “*The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.*”

Prayer:

Father, thank You for preparing the way for me to become Your friend. I am overwhelmed by the thought that You would call me Your friend. Help me to live a faithful life. Help me to walk by faith and not just by what I see or don't see. As I endeavor to strengthen our relationship may I begin to see myself as Your friend. Friends speak to one another regularly and care for each other deeply. May these two aspects of relationship exemplify our relationship, our friendship. I receive Your affection and I am Your favored companion. In the Name of Jesus I pray, amen!

Today, I need to pray for:

What is God telling me today?
