

## **I Am My Creator's Friend**

John 15:9-17

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Pastor Gary Hollinger

"But you, O Israel, my servant,  
Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
you descendants of Abraham my friend,  
I took you from the ends of the earth,  
from its farthest corners I called you.  
I said, 'You are my servant';  
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.  
So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
"All who rage against you  
will surely be ashamed and disgraced;  
those who oppose you  
will be as nothing and perish.  
Though you search for your enemies,  
you will not find them.  
Those who wage war against you  
will be as nothing at all.  
For I am the LORD, your God,  
who takes hold of your right hand  
and says to you, Do not fear;  
I will help you. (Isaiah 41:8-13)

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.  
Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Romans 4:16-18)

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Colossians 3:7-9)

**Because I am my Creator's friend, my life can be radically transformed.**

## **I. Friendship with our Creator is marked with love. (v. 9)**

... I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

## **II. Friendship with our Creator is to be marked by obedience. (v. 10)**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba* Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:12-17)

God so loved the WORLD that He gave His one and only son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

... God is love. (1 John 4:8b)

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:18-20)

## **III. Friendship with God is marked by joy. (v. 11)**

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, (Hebrews 12:2)

The LORD your God is with you,  
He is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
He will quiet you with his love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

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In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:3-5)

...the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10c)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Ephesians 5:22-23)

#### **IV. Friendship with our Creator is marked by sacrifice. (v. 12-14)**

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."  
(Matthew 26:39)

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life -- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (John 10:17-18)

#### **V. Friendship with our Creator is marked by intimate knowledge. (v. 15)**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword... (Hebrews 4:12)

#### **VI. Friendship with our Creator is marked by the bearing of fruit for eternity. (v. 16)**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20 - TLB)