



John 15:12-17 “... You Are My Friends...”

What is a friend?

“A Genuine Friendship Between Two Individuals Implies Both Are Mutually L_____ and G_____.”

I. What Does Jesus Offer Us?

- A. He gives us H_____ (v.13. Rom.5:6-8)
- B. He gives us... K_____ and I_____ (v.15. - Jn.13:16. Mt.10:24.)
- C. He gives us S_____ (v.16.)
- D. He gives us P_____ (v.16.)

II. What Do His Friends Offer Him?

- A. I am to give Him O_____. (v.14.)
- B. I am to give Him F_____. (v.16a.)
- C. I am to give Him my B_____. (v.16b. Heb.2:18)
- D. I am to give Him my L____ to my spiritual siblings. (v.17)

“Are You A *Friend* To Jesus?”

JOHN 15:12-17 NKJV

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 These things I command you, that you love one another.



BONUS OUTLINE FOR REVIEW

WHAT DO SPIRITUAL SIBLINGS OWE "ONE ANOTHER?"

I. WE OWE EACH OTHER L : John 13:34-35

- a.) Not only in thought, or word, but also in deed! (1 John 3:18)
- b.) Demonstrated by the Samaritan: (Luke 10:30-36)
- c.) Includes forgiving. (Eph.4:32)

II. WE OWE EACH OTHER S : Gal. 5:13

- a.) How do we become 'great among' others? (Mtt.20:26-27)
- b.) What is our motive? (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- c.) Does this describe you? (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

III. WE OWE EACH OTHER C : 1 Thes. 4:13,16-18

- a.) We can do this by using scripture.
- b.) All it may take is hearing what you already know.
- c.) The Psalms' ability to ease and reassure.

IV. WE OWE EACH OTHER E : Heb. 13:22; 3:12-13

- a.) 'To build a house.'
- b.) We all need to receive it & give it regularly. (Prov.27:5)

V. WE OWE EACH OTHER C : Heb. 10:24

- a.) This is needed to 'stir up love and good works.'
- b.) Isn't it true: appreciation feels great both ways?

VI. WE OWE EACH OTHER C & P : Jam. 5:16

- a.) For a mutual benefit.
- b.) The indescribable feeling knowing this occurs for you.

VII. WE OWE EACH OTHER H : 1 Pet. 4:9

- a.) A nearly forgotten art: Do we really know what it means?

"STANDING ON THE PROMISES" (HELD PRECIOUS TO THE HEART) (PT.9 OF 9)

In this world people promise many things which they don't always follow through on. Sometimes this is because what was promised is simply forgotten about. Then there are those who promise what they never really intended to follow through with. How sad that so many cannot be taken at their word. However, that is not the way it is with God. What He has DECLARED we can count on.

THEME
Speaking of God, Peter noted. . . *¶(2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)* "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us HIS PRECIOUS and very great PROMISES, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

The Greek word translated "precious" is the adjective "timios" which means "costly", therefore making reference to the costliness and value of GOD'S PROMISES. Those promises are also not merely great, but the Greek word "megista" means "greatest"! That is the kind of Giver (or Bestower) God is! The word "epaggelma" translated "promise" is from "epaggelma", a word used in the strong sense of a DECLARATION.

→How much are GOD'S PROMISES worth to us? Could we put a monetary value on them? Is the value not incalculable? Remember that those promises — which all have their "Yes" in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20) -- have come by the cost of His life on the cross. Peter referred to GOD'S PROMISES as being "precious" and "very great", even to the end that we would share God's "divine nature". Mankind, having been initially created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), through Christ we have the promise of that essence being renewed whereby we also escape the corruption of this world. Let us never lose sight of how great and precious GOD'S PROMISES are. May their greatness and preciousness cause us to remain always faithful to our relationship with Him. → Have a great day VALUING THE FACT GOD CAN ALWAYS BE TAKEN AT HIS WORD!

FF 103

We can...

Escape
Sin + This
world's corruption

Even partake
of the divine
Holy

bc
these
conditions
do this

27 DIVISIONS OF EVIDENCE PRECIOUS PROMISES

Exceeding great and precious promises are extended to the people of God. Because of the Lord's concern for us, His ability and His faithfulness, His promises are sure. What would life be without them? Oh, how dark the unknown would be without them. Think how precious and comforting the promises of God were to the Thessalonian brethren, the scattered Christians who received Peter's letters, the Hebrew Christians, and the faithful in Asia when Revelation was penned. Notice some of the promises of God as they relate to some key relationships with our Father.

1. **GOD'S PRESENCE:** In Hebrews 13:5,6 He promises to be with us and never to leave or forsake us. The Lord is with us in crossing Jordan. As we labor for Him, He is with us and ever helping us (I Cor. 3:6,9).

2. **GOD'S PARDON:** God promises to pardon if we come on proper terms to Him. Hebrews 8:12 speaks of His mercy toward our righteousness. We, like those in Acts 2, can have our sins remitted. God promises so. He is no respecter of persons. God promises to forgive those who hear, believe, repent, confess, and are baptized. I John 1:7 lays down the promise of continued pardon if we are faithful.

3. **GOD'S PROVIDENCE:** Think of the promises of God that have to do with provisions and protection from God. God in many ways provides for all. He makes the sun to rise and rain to fall on all, but there are precious promises to God's people in this area. He promises to meet our needs if we seek him first. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord (Rom. 8:28). The eyes and ears of God are attuned to the righteous, and He promises to make a way of escape available in the hour of temptation (I Cor. 10:13). Remove worry, because God cares (Phil. 4:6).

4. **GOD'S PEACE:** There is no peace for the wicked (Is. 58:20,21). But think of the promise of peace to the Christian. There is a peace from God that keeps our hearts and minds that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7). There is a peace of God that rules in the heart of God's child. Look at the epistles of the New Testament and see them introduced with a message of peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are God's children with assurance of an inheritance.

5. **GOD'S PARADISE:** He that overcomes is promised to have the privilege to eat of the tree of life, in the midst of the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7). There is a crown of life promised by the Lord to them that love Him (James 1:12). The Lord says be faithful and you will receive the great reward. Let us then hold fast because He is faithful who promised. Be faithful unto death and you will be rewarded with heaven, are the words of Revelation 2:10. Such hope serves as an anchor to the soul. Our labors will not be in vain.

God is faithful, the Lord is powerful. He cares, thus His promises are sure.

Vance Hutton