



Wednesday Night BI – Heritage of Faith Lesson 9

Developing Friendship with God

Lesson Introduction:

“But God...because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together and in fellowship and in union with Christ.” (Ephesians 2:4-5, *The Amplified Bible*).

God loves you and He wants to be your friend. Over and over again, the Bible attests to the fact that God’s love for mankind is unwavering. Even when man was in a fallen state, totally separated from God, He was calling us His treasure – redeeming His fellowship with man (Matthew 13: 44). To be a friend, a covenant must have been made.

All blood covenants have three basic reasons for being cut: Love and devotion, Protection, Equality. God made covenant with man because of his Love (John 3:16).

God’s Love = Mercy, *hesed*, *agape*:

- This is the driving of *compassion to give*—to enter a covenant of blood forever for someone else’s benefit; *to promise to give until it is too good to be true. Then swear in your own blood in order to prove you’re not lying*—so they can believe and receive. It’s no good if they cannot receive. The seed of that love is in us at the time of the new birth waiting to be planted so it can grow.
- Seen 242 times in the Old Covenant—loving-kindness, grace, steadfast love, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, devotion, favor, strength.
- The deepest desire to give compassion = the drive brought about by mercy—“To be *full* of eager yearning.”

- To promise to give, to help, to restore, etc., until it is too good to be true and then swear in your own blood to prove you're not lying *to ensure it is received*.
- To enter a covenant of blood forever, totally, for someone else's benefit and blessing.
- To give yourself totally and all you have to someone who has nothing. Blood covenant friendship is the giving of one's total self in covenant faithfulness; in unreserved trust.

I. God's hesed is forever—even when man's fails (Psalm 136)

- A. Isaiah 54:8 through all of 55; *Hesed* — I will or choose to love and keep you
- B. II Peter 1: 3-4 - *Hesed* is against natural man's nature. He must be reborn.
- C. Romans 5:5 - The covenant produced a new spirit in man and shed *hesed-agape* abroad in his heart
 1. Made him capable of being a covenant partner and brother with Jesus who is in covenant with God
 2. Acts 13:33, 39 - What Abraham established offering Isaac, God did offering up Jesus—raised Him up again

II. The Hebrew word translated *friend* is a word for a deep-running love and partnership between two people. It is literally holy in its context because it is so deep. It's like what Jonathan and David had . . . people who would die for one another. It's like the love Jesus had when He died for us.

- A. Hebrews 11: 17-19; Isaiah 41: 8 - We become friends with God when we have complete and total confidence in Him and are completely sold out to the fact that we can take Him at His Word. It was because of this kind of confidence that Abraham was called the friend of God. There is a place of faith and confidence in God's Word where we can be completely sold out - so totally convinced - that we would lay everything on the line because of it.

B. **John 15:10** - "If you keep my commandments you shall abide in my love."

1. If we keep His commandments, we will take up residence in His love. He was talking about walking and living and having our lifestyle in His love. He is talking about friendship – a fellowship – having Jesus as our best friend.
2. He said, "If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love."
3. **John 8:28** - Jesus said, "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things." The Father says of Jesus, "I've turned everything over to the Son."
4. **John 14:9** - "When you have seen me you have seen the Father" The Father and Son point to each other, not taking for themselves. Both of them are giving to each other. That is a beautiful picture of friendship.
5. **John 17:20-22** - "Father, cause them to be one...even as we are one." Jesus is talking about more than attending a few church services on Sunday. He is talking about a total commitment in thought, in speech, in every realm of life.

III. What qualifies us to be called Jesus' Friend?

- A. **John 15:13** - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." To be Jesus' friend, He asks us to lay down our life for Him. Jesus is asking us to be fully confident, completely trusting our lives to Him.
- B. **John 15:14** - "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you." This qualifies us to be called the friend of God.

IV. A New Relationship

- A. We have become friends. To be a friend *a covenant must have been made*.
 1. **Proverbs 18:24** - There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother!

Hebrew's 13:5 - "I will never leave you, nor forsake you"

Matthew 28:20 - "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

B. A relationship has been born—*hesed!* The bond of the relationship—all that has been done in one word—*hesed*

1. The legal word is *remember*. These two words - *hesed* and *remember* -are nothing without covenant

a. **Psalm 103:4** - "Remember"

- "I hold you in my mind"
- "I crown you"
- "You are ever before me"
- "I live in constant reality of the bond between us"
- "It is as if I am, at this moment, standing in the blood swearing"
- "I am—never I did or I will in the future - always now"
- "I am plotting and planning ways to bless you and surprise you as I keep the covenant terms"

b. **Psalm 105:2-5** - Action.

- Knock - I'll open.
- Seek - you'll find.
- Ask -you'll receive NOW.

Conclusion:

Friendship and fellowship with God are the richest blessings God ever made available to man. He created us in His image and in His class of being because He wants to be our friend and was willing to die to make the way.