



STRENGTHENING YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

JIM HINTON

I. GOD CREATED ME TO KNOW HIM AND BE FRIENDS WITH HIM

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you will eat with me.

Revelation 3:20 (NCV)

This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT)

Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises.

Psalms 25:14 (TLB)

The Lord would speak with Moses face-to-face, just as someone speaks with a friend.

Exodus 33:11 (TEV)

I don’t call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. But I’ve called you friends because I’ve made known to you everything that I’ve heard from my Father.

John 15:15 (GWT)

II. WAYS TO STRENGTHEN MY FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

1. Believe that God wants to have a close and loving friendship with me.

How great is God’s love for all who worship him? Greater than the distance between heaven and earth!

Psalms 103:11 (CEV)

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10 (NLT)

God isn’t an emotionless vending machine in the sky. He wants our hearts, and above all else, He wants to make His heart known to us. Don’t be afraid to draw near to God, He lavishes His gifts upon us for no other reason than He desires to pour out His love in us and through us.

Katherine Walden

2. Realize that I can be as close to God as I want to be (See Psalms 32:1-7)

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

James 4:8 (NLT)

God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong.

1 John 1:9 (GWT)

3. Refuse to allow knowing about God to take the place of truly knowing God

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (TEV)

4. Keep a conscious awareness that God is always with me

Ways to check my phone addiction (CNBC.com)

- Put myself on a schedule
- Turn off as many push notifications as possible
- Take distracting apps off on my home screen
- Kick my device out of bed
- Stay accountable

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!
Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

You make the path of life known to me. Complete joy is in your presence. Pleasures are by your side forever.
Psalm 16:11 (GWT)

5. Commit to a lifestyle that will keep me close to God

- **Bible study: Hearing from God**

Send me your light and truth to guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to where you live.
Psalm 43:3 (NCV)

- **Prayer: Talking to God**

When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else...
Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG)

- **Praise: Worship of God**

But thou *art* holy, O *thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
Psalm 22:3 (KJV)

- **Fellowship: Connecting with God's people**

And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there.
Matthew 18:20 (MSG)

- **Service: Living like God**

The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."
Matthew 25:40 (CEV)