

## “GOD IS OUR FRIEND” DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER

This week our prayer focuses on God Who is our *Friend*. He is the One Who is attached to us by affection and regard, the One Who is our Supporter and Confident.

It comes from our Prayer Verse: John 15:13-15 "Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's *friend*. You are My *friends* if you do what I command. 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."

Our encouragement from these verses is that Jesus Himself, in His own words, calls us His *friends*. This *Friend*, our *Friend*, showed us the greatest and purest love for us by laying His own life down for our sins and then called us '*friends*'. This is the greatest love ever given to humanity, God the Son giving His life for us and then calling us His *friends*. As He talks to His disciples, He is also reminding all of us that His self-sacrificing love for us was to be a model for all of us to have that same kind of self-sacrificing love for our Father and also for those all around us, treating them as God treated us. He reminds us that to be a true *friend* of the Lord, we must walk in obedience to His commands, sacrificing our own selfish desires for His ways because we love Him. This kind of *friendship* involves love and obedience from us but in return it also includes His wonderful gift of His wisdom and knowledge that He bestows on those He calls *friends*. As we lay our lives down for the Lord and do as He commands, God shares His knowledge and His plans with us as we study His Word and listen to His Holy Spirit in our lives. How can there be a more intimate friend than the *Eternal Friend* that shares His Own knowledge and plans with us? How can there be a more intimate friend than the *Eternal Friend* Who shares *His Own* Spirit to live inside of us, giving us eternal life, loving us, supporting us and giving us the confidence and wisdom we need to walk out our lives in His power, His presence, His provision and His wonderful purpose and plan for us? Let us pray that we and those we are praying for will know Him as *Friend* and we will desire to be near His throne, listening to His Word, enjoying His intimacy and obeying His commandments. Let us pray that through His power, presence and *friendship* in our lives, we will walk humbly with Him and live in the wonderful purpose and plan He has for each one of us. Let us pray to this *Friend* above all friends, our eternal Father and *Faithful Friend*. Let us pray:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we humbly bow before Your throne in our hearts and praise You for being our "*Friend*". Lord, we ask that we and...

*(names of those you are praying for)*

will understand that greater love has no one than this than to lay down one's life for one's *friend*. That we will understand that You are our *Friend* if we do what You command. That You no longer call us servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, You have called us *friends*, for everything that You learned from Your Father You have made known to us. May we recognize our need for You and humble our hearts before your mighty throne. May our hope be in You all day long. Father, we were yours before we were ever anyone else's and we trust in You that You will do this for us as we humbly ask, all for the glory of Your name. In Your precious Son's name, Jesus, we pray, Amen.