

## **Volume 6, Day 17: Friendship with God**

There is genuine delight in real friendship, especially friendship with God. It is far more than just occasional feelings of His presence all day, every day. We feel Him not just while in prayer, but at all times as we bring His presence into our current conscious moment. True friendship with God occurs when we are so much in contact with God that we never need to ask Him to show us His will. A deeply affectionate relationship enables us to finish the other's sentences and know what they desire before they even speak. When you are rightly related to another (even God), it brings freedom of expression of the most intimate thoughts and desires of your life. Vulnerability becomes very natural in genuine relationship. When you experience intimacy with God, you are God's will, and all your common-sense decisions are His will for you unless He checks. You decide things in perfect delightful friendship with God, knowing that if your decisions are wrong He will always cause you to pause. When He checks, stop at once.

Genuine relationships bring with them difficulties which we would not encounter in any other way. These difficulties can actually, if not properly addressed, cause a silence or even a break in relationship. However, they occur in order to bring us to fully appreciate friendship or better yet, develop intimacy with another person. When we stop communicating we weaken the bond. Why do we stop praying when we don't get the results we sought? It is because we are not intimate enough yet to go boldly on until God grants our desire or enables us to know His purposes and desire for us in that particular matter.

Whenever we stop short in prayer and say – “Well, I don't know; perhaps it is not God's will,” we are not as intimately acquainted with God as Jesus was, and as He wants us to be – “That they may be one even as we are one.” Think of the last thing you prayed about. Were you devoted to your desire or to God's desire? Were you determined to get some gift from God or to bring pleasure to God? The point of asking is that you may get to know God better. “Delight yourself also in the Lord; and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” Keep praying in order to get a perfect understanding of God Himself.