

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

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FRIENDS COLLABORATE WITH FRIENDS

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
(JOHN 15:15).

Abraham and Moses are called friends of God. The result of these collaborative, intimate relationships is absolutely stunning, for Scripture shows us two men who actually had influence with God. This influence is not some right to tell God what to do. Intimacy does not seek to control; it is all about sharing and exchange. What we see extended to both Moses and Abraham is an invitation into the Holy One's decision-making process. Both examples show us how co-laboring with God works.

James tells us that *"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God* (James 2:23). When God was looking to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, it was Abraham He invited into the decision-making process. Based on what we observe from their discussion, it would appear that Abraham possessed a significant voice of influence before God. God had a very clear plan—bring total destruction to these wicked cities. However, Abraham recognized that his nephew, Lot, was living down there. This is what compelled him to intercede for the cities. God is God. He could have done whatever He wanted. The moment He made up His mind to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, He could have gone right on out and done it. But in this example, God made a choice to show Abraham, and generations to come, what friendship and collaboration with Him looked like.

In Exodus 33:11, we read that *"the Lord spoke to Moses face to a man speaks to his friend."* What is a common denominator of friendship with God? Access into His divine decision-making process and yes, influence in the process. This is demonstrated with Moses after the golden calf incident. Moses had been up on the mountain with God for a while, the people became restless, and ultimately, they decided to worship a golden calf as the "god" who brought them out of Egypt. As a result, God invites Moses into His plan: *"Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them, and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation"* (Exod. 32:10). How does Moses respond? He invites God to remember the covenant He made with his forefathers, which promised, *"I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever"* (Exod. 32:13). In this case, we see that Moses steps into his identity as a friend of God, dialoguing with God about His intentions and actually reminding Him of the covenant that He established with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The result of this interaction? God relents from harming His people (v. 14).

Both of these conversations took place between intimates, not servant and master. Jesus affirmed that we have this kind of relationship with God in John 15:15. Servants aren't co-laborers; friends are. There are major differences between the mentalities of each. A servant is task-oriented, wanting to know exactly what is required so he or she can do it. But a servant doesn't know the master's business from the inside. This is the grace of friendship—access to the mind and heart of the Master.

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

God has brought you into an intimate, collaborative relationship with Himself where you are invited into His decision-making process, awarded exclusive access into what He is doing, and are also given a voice of influence before His throne.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think God gives His people a voice of influence today in His decision-making process?
2. Why do you think friendship and intimacy with God is so important in the process of collaborating with God?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

What a joy to be called Your friend! Thank You, Jesus, for inviting me into the greatest relationship of all. You no longer call us just servants, for servants don't know what the Master is doing. You invite Your people into close, intimate friendship. You call me Your friend, and this means that You share Your heart, Your plans, and Your decisions with me.