

## Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

I believe the Body of Christ is on the edge of the greatest revival ever

If we are going to be a part of this revival, we must have a desire for "more" and an understanding of the **culture** that will usher it in and maintain it.

More miracles, healings, deliverance, glory, power, more ministries and churches planted, more of the presence of God

## 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- Identity doesn't come from education it comes from impartation
- We are "sent" to change our culture

We are living in a new Kingdom with a new identity

## Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> He has **delivered** us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us** into the **kingdom** of the Son of His love

### John 15:14–15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> 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.

We must never lose sight of the fact that God loves obedience more than sacrifice, so we should never take our relationship with Father God casually

However, the greatness of God is magnified in our lives when we understand who we are as sons and daughters and walk in our authority

- Notice the contrast between “master and slave” and “Father and friend”
- Slaves obey out of fear, friends obey the Father out of love
- If you love me, you will obey me – **John 14:15**
- A willing heart is a prerequisite for moving out of slavery into friendship
- God wants us to know what He is up to so we do likewise

### John 5:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

We have been invited to have the same kind of relationship with our heavenly Father as Jesus did

- We see examples of some extraordinary relationships with several people throughout the Bible

### Exodus 33:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”

### James 2:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God.

These two men are an example of people who experienced a special bond with God as friends

- Friends influence one another
- It’s never one sided

### Genesis 18:17–18 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, <sup>18</sup> since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

- God was telling Abraham that because of His relationship with Him he was privy to inside information

God tells Abraham that He is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah

### Genesis 18:23–25 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

- Where did Abraham get the idea that he had the right to question God?
- How could a man feel he might have a different point of view of the situation that God hadn’t thought of?
- It was as if he was saying, “*There are a few holes in your plan Lord.*”
- Here we see in scripture that a man debates with God on the basis of friendship

We see the same thing with God and Moses

### Exodus 32:7–10 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted *themselves*.”

<sup>8</sup> They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it *is* a stiff-necked people! <sup>10</sup> 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.”

Look at Moses’ response

**Exodus 32:11–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: “LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

<sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘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.’ ” <sup>14</sup> So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

- This conversation will blow your theology out of the water
- The Lord changed His mind?

This story shows an amazing, intimate relationship between God and a man

Here is an unredeemed man, living under the Old Covenant telling God that destroying His own people is a bad idea

- Their conversation reveals a deep sense of mutual respect
- It's like God is saying, "*Moses these are your people*"
- And Moses is saying, "*No, They're your people*"

It reminds me of Trish and I when we were raising our children

- When they did something right, they were my kids
- But when they messed up, they were her children

I don't think that it's a case of God not knowing what He's going to do in a certain situation

I believe He allows these kinds of relationships because He yearns for a relationship in which there is a mutual respect

- He invites us into conversation with Him
- A friend talking with a friend

I believe that the church has had overemphasized obedience and underemphasized friendship

- This has resulted in our relationships with God being more robotic and soldier-like
- God wants friends not slaves

What is the secret to the relationships Moses and Abraham had with God?

Exodus 33:1–3, 12-17 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Depart *and* go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’ <sup>2</sup> And I will send *My* Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. <sup>3</sup> Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you *are* a stiff-necked people.”

<sup>12</sup> Then Moses said to the LORD, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people.” <sup>14</sup> And He said, “My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who *are* upon the face of the earth.” <sup>17</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”

Moses is saying to God that his relationship with God is more important than any vision he has personally for his life

- This is a key to building a deeper relationship with the Father
- We must want Him more than what He does
- When you love Jesus more than the world you discover a place filled with joy and friendship

The Lord wants us to trust Him regardless of the place He is taking us to

- How many of us would go where the Lord asked us to go, knowing that suffering was awaiting?
- Most of us would reject anything that seemed uncomfortable as being from the Lord
- Many times, in the prophetic realm God is testing our hearts more than determining our destiny

### Acts 21:11–13 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.' " <sup>12</sup> Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."



Most of us would have taken this as a word from the Lord to not go to Jerusalem

- We would never consider that part of God's plan to get us to Rome was to have us go to Jerusalem to be imprisoned
- It was part of God's plan to bring Paul to have an audience with Caesar

I believe that God will sometimes give us an option out of obedience because he desires the interaction with us that ultimately tests our hearts towards Him

- God wants our feedback
- Can you imagine a friend that always wanted to go to a restaurant of their choosing?
- Always wanted to talk about the things that interested them
- I don't think you would have many friends

God doesn't just give us demands that we are supposed to blindly obey

- God is love
- Love doesn't act that way
- God is not selfish

### 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

David is called a man after God's own heart

- He transcended the rules of his day and establishes a friendship with God
- In those days there were strict rules as to how people could worship
- Only the high priest could go in before the ark of God on one day per year

David erected a tabernacle and had the priests minister before the ark twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for more than thirty years

David's friendship with God was so extraordinary that he wanted to build a temple for God

God responded by saying even though He didn't live in a building built by men, he would allow his son, Solomon to build Him a house

### 1 Kings 8:16–17 (NKJV) Solomon dedicating the temple

<sup>16</sup> 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel *in which* to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.' <sup>17</sup> Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

It wasn't God's idea to have David build Him a house, God allowed it because it was in David's heart to do it for God

Christians have a special place in the heart of God, and He trusts us with important decisions

### John 20:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

- Consider the ramifications of withholding forgiveness from someone
- Yet the Lord trusts us with these important decisions

We are so accustomed to viewing the Scriptures through a slave’s mentality it seldom dawns on us that God actually likes the fact that we have a will

- He gave us a brain

When we are in right relationship with God, we have permission to ask whatever we wish, and he will grant it

### John 15:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- Abiding produces intimacy (true friendship)
- Friendship produces revelation
- Revelation produces faith (trust)

God is looking for an intimate friend that will walk by His side, conversing and discussing His plans for the world