

**MAKING RELATIONSHIPS BETTER THAN AVERAGE**  
**"Making Your Relationship With God Better Than Average" – Pt 5 of 5**  
**October 8, 2017**

"Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you." **James 4:8a (NLT)**

"We were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, so we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. NOW we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God!"

**Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)**

Jesus: "I no longer call you servants... Now you are my friends!" **John 15:15 (NLT)**

"... He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you."

**Exodus 34:14 (NLT)**

GOD: "I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me!" **Hosea 6:6 (LB)**

"Starting from scratch, God made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so that we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him!"

**Acts 17:26-27 (Message)**

**HOW TO BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

1. **MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ GOD MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY**

"Everything else is worthless compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus. I've discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may know Christ." **Philippians 3:8 (NLT)**

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with ALL your heart."

**Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)**

2. **SLOW DOWN AND BE \_\_\_\_\_**

"Be still, and know that I am God." **Psalms 46:10a (NIV)**

"Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who reverence him. With them he shares the secrets of his promises." **Psalms 25:14 (LB)**

"When you come before God, don't turn it into a theatrical production . . . Just find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God.

Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."

**Matthew 6:5-6 (Message)**

3. **DECIDE WHOSE \_\_\_\_\_ YOU WANT MOST**

"You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the 'world' becomes God's enemy."

**James 4:4 (NCV)**

Jesus: "You are my friends if you obey me." **John 15:14 (NLT)**

4. **MAINTAIN A CONSTANT \_\_\_\_\_**

"Pray all the time!" **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Message)**

"My determined purpose is that I may know Him—that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly." **Philippians 3:10 (AmpC)**

5. **TRUST GOD IN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_**

"Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." **Psalms 55:22 (NIV)**

**In Trouble?**

"I'll get you out of any trouble. And I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me." **Psalms 91:14 (Message)**

**Drifted Away From God?**

"If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. If you speak words that are worthy, you will be my spokesman. You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!" **Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)**

"No one shows greater love than when he lays down his life for his friends. And you are my friends IF you do what I command." **John 15:13-14 (ISV)**

"And this is what God commands: that we believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love each other, just as he commanded." **1 John 3:23 (NCV)**