

Making Friends for God: Lesson #13 — A Step in Faith

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Memory Verse

Philippians 2:5–7 (NKJV) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

“Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing’. Rev. 5:12”. — E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 131.

Jesus’ Self-Sacrificing Love

Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus, who was equal with God from all eternity, “made Himself of no reputation”

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived”. —DA , p. 530.

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV) *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

Commitment’s Call

Matthew 9:9 (NKJV) *As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.*

Matthew 8:21–22 (NKJV) *Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”*

Mark 1:16–20 (NKJV) *And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.*

Mark 10:28–31 (NKJV) *Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” ²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” **Not everyone followed.***

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

Paul: God’s Chosen Vessel

Acts 9:3–6 (NKJV) *As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

Acts 10:20 (NKJV) *Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”*

Jonah 1:1–2 (NKJV) *Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,* ² *“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, ...*

Acts 9:26–27 (NKJV) *And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.* ²⁷ *But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

Acts 13:2–3 (NKJV) *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”* ³ *Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

Romans 1:1 (NKJV) *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*

Galatians 1:15–16 (NKJV) *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace,* ¹⁶ *to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,*

2 Timothy 1:11 (NKJV) *to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

Paul was separated from the Pharisees for the Gentiles

Acts 28:28–31 *“Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves. Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.*

2 Timothy 4:5–8 (NKJV) *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* ⁶ *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.* ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* ⁸ *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

The Demands Of Love

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV) *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;*

1 Corinthians 9:16 (NKJV) *yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!*

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV) *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;*

Matthew 10:37–38 (NKJV) *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*

John 21:15–19 *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”* ¹⁶ *He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”* ¹⁷ *He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.* ¹⁸ *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”* ¹⁹ *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

Love’s Commitment

Revelation 1:9 *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

John 21:18–19 (NKJV) *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”* ¹⁹ *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

Acts 9:16 (NKJV) *For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*

1 John 3:16–18 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

John 13:17 (NKJV) *If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*