

SCRIPTURE

John 15:12-15 (NKJV)

*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you. 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 15:12-15 (TPT)

*So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you. For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends. You show that **you are my intimate friends** when you obey all that I command you. I have never called you 'servants,' because a master doesn't confide in his servants, and servants don't always understand what the master is doing. But I call you my most intimate friends, for **I reveal to you everything** that I've heard from my Father*

OBSERVATION

As a friend, face-to-face time with God is no longer a maybe but a reality. We are welcome in Father's presence at any time. We are invited to eat with Him; to enjoy His company; to understand His ways; to rely on Him; to trust Him implicitly; and to have confidence in our relationship with Him. He wants us to view ourselves not as servants, with jobs to be done, instructions to follow, rules to be kept, and comments on how well we achieve what is asked of us, but as precious friends. Father desires more than anything our company, His eye lovingly upon us, His thoughts gracious towards us, His heart open and ready to embrace us. As friends, we do not go through life alone, unknown, misunderstood or ranked on our achievements. We always have our greatest friend at our side.

Friendship begins at the cross, and through faith and repentance, we begin to walk in what is indeed a privilege, an honour, a life changer. Friendship thrives on communication and conversation. It is not a once-a-day kind of thing, but a way of living where everything is shared openly and honestly. Just as Paul encourages the Philippians, he also says to us: *Tell Father every detail of your life.* (Phil 4:6 TPT)

APPLICATION

Are you living in friendship status with God, or do you revert to that of a servant? Think of your daily reading and prayer not just as spiritual disciplines, but as a way of relating to God as a friend.

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