



Relationships/Friendships Part II

David and Jonathan; Lessons to building a good relationship

Great and strong relationships aren't born that way. They are worked at. It takes sacrifice, commitment and total devotion to have a strong and lifelong relationship.

I also must mention that we need to be led by the Holy Spirit to develop relationships and how deep they ought to be.

Additionally, there is **a level of closeness we need to avoid and be extremely cautious with the opposite sex** lest we get ensnared by the devil. We do not want to get ourselves in emotional ties with the opposite sex other than our spouse.

Below are some outstanding characteristics that we see projected in this relationship between David and Jonathan.

a) Love

1 Samuel 18:1, 17 "And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was **knit** with the soul of David, and Jonathan **loved him as his own soul**. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because **he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.**"

- i) Love is one of the main foundations for building a good and long-lasting relationship. This is an agape type of love. God's kind of love.
- ii) Love is not love if it is not demonstrated.
- iii) We ought not to love in word. Anyone can. We are to love in deeds and in action.

iv) 1 John 3:18 *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."*

v) True love will have actions. It is not just cheap talk. Until then, that love is still not in truth.

b) Commitment

1 Samuel 18:3 "Then Jonathan and David made a **covenant**, because he loved him as his own soul."

i) This is referring to an alliance or pledge between each other.

ii) These two swore eternal friendship to one another

iii) Promised to always be loyal friends and to be there for each other in everything.

iv) These are signs of commitment to a relationship and friendship.

c) Giving

1 Samuel 18:4 *"And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle."*

i) Giving is a foundation for a stronger relationship.

ii) Jonathan did not love David in words. He put actions to his words by giving to David. He gave him his:

- Robe
- Garments
- Sword
- Bow
- Girdle.

- iii) Giving is a major aspect of building friendships. Without giving to one another, our friendships will never go far.
- iv) Giving can be more than things. It could be help, time, support and many other things, but ultimately, we need to be givers.
- v) When God decided to pursue a deep relationship with mankind, He gave. He gave His only Son (John 3:16).

- When we love, we give FULLSTOP.

- vi) **I don't take giving lightly.** For instance, when someone gives you money, they have given you more than money:

- They have given you their savings.
- Sweat
- Hard work
- Time
- A portion of their life
- Part of their retirement
- Care
- Future
- Put you ahead of themselves.
- They have ascribed value to you.

d) Delight

1 Samuel 19:2 *But Jonathan Saul's son **delighted** much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:*

- i) We need to delight in one another. Jonathan was pleased with and took pleasure in David. This was essential in building a strong friendship and relationship. This would have been impossible if she was not delighted with David.

e) **Speak good of one another**

1 Samuel 19:4 *And Jonathan spoke good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:*

- i) Jonathan did not love David secretly. It was public to the point that it got him at odds with his father, King Saul.
- ii) If we truly love someone, we will speak highly of them and not entertain anyone who speaks negatively about them. Jonathan stood up for David in both words and actions.
- iii) If we speak negatively about our relationships, those relationships will never grow deeper and close.
 - Ephesians 4:31 “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”

f) **Seek favor and promotion for one another**

1 Samuel 19:7 *And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.*

- i) Jonathan did everything he possibly could to elevate David. He sought favor and promotion for him.
- ii) This should be how we treat our relationships if they are to grow deeper and stronger.

g) **Favor before one another.**

1 Samuel 20:3 *And David swore moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.*

- i) Relationships thrive on grace and favor. No relationship will go this far without these ingredients.
- ii) David had found grace in the eyes of Jonathan which played a major part in building this relationship.

h) Whatsoever thy soul desireth

1 Samuel 20:4 “Then said Jonathan unto David, whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.”

- i) We have to be willing to do whatever we possibly can to help one another. Relationships thrive on sacrifice.
- ii) Jonathan was willing to do whatsoever he could for David. Of course, there are boundaries and limits to this, such as it has to be a godly thing that we are doing to help one another. It is not true love to blindly go against the Word of God to appease or fulfill a request of a friend.

i) Defend and protect one another

1 Samuel 20:12-13 “And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow any time, *or* the third *day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show it thee; The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will show it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

- i) Jonathan protected and defended David. He revealed all that could have put his life in danger just to spare his life and protect him from any pitfalls.
- ii) Building a good friendship and relationship will require standing up for each other and one another.

j) Kindness

1 Samuel 20:15 But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy **kindness** from my house forever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

- i) We need to be kind to one another. Jonathan was kind to David and was asking David to be kind to his house forever. Jonathan knew that David would become king (1 Samuel 23:17).
- ii) Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: **And be ye kind one to another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
- iii) We reap what we sow. Jonathan sowed kindness to David, and he reaped the same.

k) Put others ahead of yourself.

1 Samuel 20:28-33 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem: And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favor in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? **For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom.** Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done? And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

- i) Saul was angry at Jonathan because he put David ahead of himself, risking never becoming king.
- ii) Notice the words "**thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom.**"
- iii) In other words, Saul was saying as long as David is alive, you will never become king. Jonathan knew this, yet he still put David ahead of himself knowing he would never be king.

iv) This is truly God's kind of love. Jonathan was not out for himself. He gave up wealth, power and honor for David.

- He was almost killed for defending and putting David ahead of himself.

l) Strengthen and encourage One another

1 Samuel 23:16-17 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

- i) We need to remember to strengthen one another. We all need encouragement. Jonathan encouraged David, hence strengthening him.

m) Lamented for his friend

2 Samuel 1:17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

- i) Again, this is a sign of true friendship. David lamented over Jonathan. He was not rejoicing at the death of his dear friend.
- ii) Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

n) No division

2 Samuel 1:23 "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions."

- i) When we are not divided, we will be swifter together and stronger together.
- ii) This is a powerful lesson from David and Jonathan's relationship.

o) Never forget your friend. Keep your Word!

2 Samuel 9:1-7 *And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar. Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*

- i) David did not have to do this, but he had made a covenant with his friend Jonathan. In due time, David kept his covenant and pledge to Jonathan.
- ii) He blessed Mephibosheth on behalf of Jonathan. He did this not for Mephibosheth, but in the name of Jonathan.
- iii) This is how friend treat each other and relationships like this will last a long time

p) Mercy

2 Samuel 21:7 *"But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul."*

- i) Mephibosheth was spared only because of the relationship between his father Jonathan and David.