



## MORE CONNECTION

Pleasing God more means learning the value of friendship

### SUMMARY

We have become a very goal-oriented society, and, while that isn't a bad thing, we often fail to make the greatest purpose our greatest pursuit. With a myriad of options and opportunities, it is so easy for us to get distracted by and begin to drift towards things that aren't necessarily bad things, but they interfere with or take the place of what should be our greatest desire – to please God. This year, let's determine that our life is going to abound with and increase in those things that our Heavenly takes great delight in.

### REVIEW

We began this series by establishing the theme for our church this year: **MORE AND MORE - DETERMINED TO PLEASE THE LORD MORE IN 2024.**

We're considering some key elements that need to be in our life if we are going to please God more.

**MORE TRUST.** Pleasing God more begins with trusting God most.

**MORE DISCERNMENT.** Pleasing God more means living right in a world that is wrong.

**MORE OBEDIENCE.** Pleasing God more means obeying God first.

**MORE FEAR.** Pleasing God more means loving God most.

**MORE WORSHIP.** Pleasing God more means honoring God first.

**MORE CONSISTENCY.** Pleasing God more means staying faithful through it all.

**MORE COURAGE.** Pleasing God more means stepping up when no one else will.

**MORE HOPE.** Pleasing God more means believing God Can When I Know That I Can't.

Last week, we found that the ninth element is **MORE PASSION**. Our key statement was this:  
**PLEASING GOD MORE MEANS GETTING FIRED UP ABOUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS.**

The Bible tells us a lot about David, but God summarized his life by saying that David was **PASSIONATE**.

- 1) He was passionate about **KNOWING AS MUCH AS HE COULD ABOUT GOD**
- 2) He was passionate about **BEING AS CLOSE TO AS HE COULD BE TO GOD**
- 3) He was passionate about **PRAYING TO GOD ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN HIS LIFE**
- 4) He was passionate about **GIVING GOD PRAISE FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS**
- 5) He was passionate about **FULFILLING HIS PART IN GOD'S PLAN**

## **MESSAGE**

Last week, we jumped from the book of Ruth where we found the **BIRTH** of David to the book of Psalms where we discovered the **PASSIONS** of the heart of David. While the passion of David for God greatly contributed to the successes of David's life, the truth of the matter is that David could not have accomplished what he did without the **POWER** of God that was poured into David's life and without the **PEOPLE** that God brought into David's life.

While the story of David's life may have begun with him alone on the hills of Bethlehem watching over and defending the sheep, it didn't end that way. God had mighty big plans for David's life and along the biggest majority of that journey God placed individuals to **STRENGTHEN** him, to **SUPPORT** him, to **STAND** with him, and to **STRAIGHTEN** him out.

While there were many individuals who helped David, there is one man that stands out above all of the others – Jonathan.

While David is mentioned before Jonathan in the Bible, we find that Jonathan was on the scene for a while before David shows up. We are first introduced to Jonathan in 1 Samuel chapter 13 where he is identified as the eldest **SON** of King Saul, and as a man who knew how to wield a **SWORD**. As a matter of fact, before Jonathan ever met David, Jonathan was already serving as a leader in Saul's army who had been very successful in battle and who had gained the respect of his fellow soldiers, and yet, he was among the men of Israel who *"...were dismayed, and greatly afraid..."* (1 Samuel 17:11) when Goliath **DEFIED** God and **DARED** someone to fight him.

David is sent by his father to his brothers to take them corn, bread, and cheese and to see how they were doing in their “fight” with the Philistines. When David got there, he found that there wasn’t any fighting at all taking place. David is brought to stand before King Saul and then he stands on Goliath after defeating him in battle. David takes Goliath’s sword, he cuts off Goliath’s head, and then he carries the head of Goliath to King Saul.

1 Samuel 18:1-4 says, *“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 Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 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.”*

If you’re in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I’d like to draw your attention back to a couple statements that are made in the passage that we just read:

Verse 1 where the Bible says, *“...the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”*

Verse 3 where the Bible says, *“...because he loved him as his own soul.”*

For a few moments, I’d like to consider this thought: **MORE CONNECTION - PLEASING GOD MORE MEANS LEARNING THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP.**

By definition, the word *connection* means “the act of joining; the state of being knit together.” And that is exactly what David and Jonathan had.

From what we can tell, the friendship that existed between David and Jonathan began here after David’s battle with Goliath and it continued throughout the remainder of their lives. It was a good friendship that not only meant something to both of them, but it was a friendship that deeply impacted both of them. Neither of them was the same after this friendship was formed.

We need to understand that friendship isn’t just a good **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE**; friendship is an **ABSOLUTE NECESSITY** for all of us. The reality is that we were **BUILT** for **QUALITY** friendships, we are **BLESSED** through **GOOD** friendships, and we are **BETTERED** by **HEALTHY** friendships. We need friends, and yet, very few in their entire life find the type of friendship that David and Jonathan had.

In Proverbs 17:17, we learn that a true friend loves at all times.

In Proverbs 27:6, we learn that a faithful friend helps keep me out of trouble.

In Proverbs 27:9, we learn that sweet friendship makes my heart rejoice.

In Proverbs 27:17, we learn that a good friendship leads to the improvement of both.

All throughout Scripture, we find **EXAMPLES** and we learn some of the **BENEFITS** of true friends.

When Adam was living in a season of loneliness, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone,” and God brought him a friend named Eve to be his help meet.

When Moses was overcome with a sense of inadequacy, God brought him a friend named Aaron to help him in his task.

When Naomi was battling a roller coaster of emotions, it was a friend named Ruth that helped her get back to where she needed to be and move forward in God’s plan for her life.

When Elijah was dealing with a season of depression, God told him, “Elijah, you need to eat, you need to rest, and I’m going to give you a friend.” That friend was a young man named Elisha.

When the Apostle Paul was carrying out the work of the ministry, God surrounded him with many friends. Too many for us to list.

When John Mark was struggling with the consequences of his own bad decision, it was a friend named Barnabas who helped him get back on track and become profitable to the cause of Christ once again.

What I’m trying to say is this: good friends help **GROUND US** when things seem to be falling apart, good friends help us **GET THROUGH** what life throws at us, good friends help us **GET BACK** on track when it’s hard for us to figure out what we have done, good friends **GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE** when we don’t really deserve it, and good friends help us **GO FORWARD** in God’s plan for our life.

As we come back to our text, I want to attempt to view this idea of true friendship, not from the perspective of David, but from the perspective of Jonathan. I believe the passage lends itself to the idea that Jonathan was the initiator of this friendship. I’m not saying that David wasn’t involved and interested in this friendship, but it appears that the friendship was initiated by Jonathan.

Verse 1 tells us “...that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

This connection, this friendship, this brotherhood has been identified as an unusual or an unlikely relationship. Why? Primarily because of the age difference. When David fought Goliath, David was about seventeen years of age, but Jonathan was significantly older than David. I don’t have time to walk us through the math, but it appears that Jonathan was somewhere between twenty-four and twenty-seven years older than David (there are those that suggest as little as fifteen years difference and others who suggest as much as thirty-five years difference), but there was something about both of them that brought them close together and that contributed to them being better.

That day, when David stood before King Saul, Jonathan found some qualities in David that made him the type of friend that Jonathan wanted.

Proverbs 18:24 says, *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..."*

- 1) David was a man of **FAITH** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 17:26 says, *"And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

1 Samuel 17:29 says, *"And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"*

1 Samuel 17:37 says, *"David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."*

1 Samuel 17:45-47 says, *"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."*

- 2) David was a man of **ACTION** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 17:32 says, *"And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."*

- 3) David was a man of **CHARACTER** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 17:33 says, *"And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."*

- 4) David was a man of **COURAGE** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 17:48 says, *"And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine."*

- 5) David was a man of **SUCCESS** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 17:50 says, *"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David."*

- 6) David was a man of **WISDOM** and Jonathan wanted that quality in a friend.

1 Samuel 18:1 says, *"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."*

This was a wonderful friendship that began here, and it continued for approximately 10 to 15 years, until Jonathan was killed in battle. In 2 Samuel we actually have the eulogy that David gave for Jonathan.

*2 Samuel 1:23-27 says, "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. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"*

There's no friend like Jesus...

*Proverbs 18:24 says, "...and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."*

...But second to that relationship with Jesus there's nothing better than having a true friend that is actually worthy of being a true friend.