

The Focus of Genuine Friendship

Maintaining Spiritual Friends during Dark Days 2 Timothy 1:3–5 Chris Mueller FBC 7–8–2018

Introduction:

*2 Timothy 1: 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,
4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.
5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

#1 Focusing on God the F_____ 3 *I thank God*

1st with DEDICATION

1 – Wholehearted and continual offering of your entire LIFE *whom I serve*

Philippians 3:3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh...

Romans 12:1 I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Luke 9:23 (Jesus said), "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

2 – Genuinely living a life of INTEGRITY *with a clear conscience*

1 Timothy 1:5 the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

1 Timothy 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 4:2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

Ken Hughes "There is no guilt, no weight of unresolved sins, nothing to confess. He has been true to the gospel and his calling. He was not sinless, but he was blameless, and he was faithful."

Psalms 101:2b I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

3 – Sincerely following the PATTERN of God's people *the way my forefathers did*

.2nd with DIALOGUE *as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day*

4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

#2 Focusing on your F_____ 4

1-GET TIME TOGETHER *longing to see you*

2-MAKE MEMORIES *even as I recall your tears*

Acts 20:37 they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him

3-BLESSED BY GENUINE JOY *so that I may be filled with joy*

JOY is an internal delight in God and a fullness from God in the heart of a believer, knowing everything is certain with Christ and eternity.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

The truly blessed friendship 'statuette' is formed by the clay of dedication to Christ, in the oven heat of ministry.

5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

#3 Focusing on their F_____ and F_____ 5

*John 3:3 Jesus ... said ... "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

TAKE HOME: Christian Friendships require Spiritual Commitments

1 What you _____ about your friend is crucial to your friendship

2 Never minimize the impact of a godly FAMILY

3 _____ is intentional relationships for the purpose of growth in Christ

4 True Christians are those who WORSHIP

5 If your faith is _____ and you need to FIRE UP your heart, then...

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. In what ways do genuine Christians struggle with their relationships, whether in marriage or friendships?
2. List all the qualities of healthy spiritual relationships exposed by Paul in these verses.
3. Which of those qualities on friendship found in this passage convicted you the most and why?
4. What steps will you take to grow to become a better friend this week, this year?
5. What aspects of genuine salvation did Paul make clear in verses 3-5? Why are they crucial?
6. What lessons about parenting can be gained from this passage? How will you apply them?
7. What are the advantages of a godly heritage? Are there disadvantages, and what are they?
8. Why does Paul talk so personally to Timothy in these verses? Why are these verses here?

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