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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - Building Lasting Friendships

APRIL 17TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Samuel 18:1-4

Genuine friends are rare treasures. In a very limited way, they are shadows of the perfect fellowship experienced within the Trinity. We are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27); one aspect of this truth is that the Lord created us for meaningful relationships. In fact, it's difficult to flourish if we live in isolation. By God's design, we are made to share life with others, as well as to give and receive love.

Friendships come in various degrees—from surface relationships to intimate fellowship. Although you may have many acquaintances, you might remain lonely unless you have at least one or two close friends. If God has blessed you with an intimate friendship, be diligent to devote time and effort to develop and cultivate it.

Jonathan and David exemplified this type of closeness. One was a prince and the other was a shepherd, so they seemed like improbable companions. However, status didn't matter to them. Besides demonstrating humility, they also showed great respect for each other's faith and love for Israel. They both felt as committed as brothers and gave generously of themselves. For example, the robe Jonathan gave David—a prized possession of the king's son—was evidence of his loyalty and love (1 Samuel 18:4). He even risked his life and reputation in order to save

David (1 Samuel 20:30-34).

Do you have a person like this in your life—someone with whom to share your joys and sorrows, strengths and weaknesses, fears and pain? Thankfully, Jesus is the best friend we can have, but we also need close relationships with others. What can you do today to build this type of friendship?

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 17TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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