



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

-- The Benefits of a Godly Friend"

February 2003

Dear Partner,

I pray that this letter finds you walking in God's will, with His joy unspeakable and full of glory (manifested Word).

The past couple of months Pastor Harold has written about successful relationships. This month he asked me to write a letter about friendship. This is a vital part of any close relationship.

What is a friend? I'm glad you asked. William Penn defined it as a "union of spirits, a marriage of the hearts." Webster's defines a friend as an "intimate acquaintance". Let's break down these two words. **Intimate** means confidential, personal, familiar and close association. **Acquaintance** is the state of knowing a person. So let's say it this way—a friend is an intimate companion-- a confidant. Two of my favorite synonyms for a friend are supporter and defender. When we look at the true definition of a friend, I don't think that we would be so quick to call just anyone "our friend".

Take this time to evaluate yourself as a friend and evaluate the friendships in your life. Always remember that everyone (including ourselves) causes addition, subtraction, multiplication or division in other people's lives. Allow God to lead you in your friendships. He will let you know how much to allow people to be involved in your life. He will let you know whom you should keep in your "outer court", your "inner court" or your "holy of holies".

I am going to list Nine Ways People Benefit From Godly Friendships. If you find that you need to improve on any of these areas, pray & ask the Holy Spirit to help you make the adjustments necessary. That's what He's here to do...help.

(1) Pray for your friends & your friendships. *Job 42:10* says "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." Pray for your friends because you love them and you want the best for them. Your motive should be love and God will reward you for that. Also, pray that nothing will ever come between you and your friends. If Satan could come between Jesus and Judas, who are we to think that he won't try to come between our friendships?

(2) Be trustworthy & refreshing. *Acts 27:3* says "...and Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh him." *Proverbs 27:17* says "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Our friends should be able to trust us and know that they can come to us in times in their lives when they need to be refreshed. They should be able to come in confidence to discuss anything with us and know that it won't be shared with others. They also should feel better and refreshed after spending time with us.

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Sunday services held at 10:00am & weekly Bible studies held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
at the Kiwanis Park Recreational Center, 2526 Noble Road, Raleigh, NC.

From Capital Blvd. take 440 Outer to Exit 10, turn left onto Wake Forest Rd., turn right
onto McNeil St (beside Miami Subs) keep straight & the Kiwanis Center will be directly in front of you.

P.O. Box 61401
Raleigh, NC 27661-1401
Phone: 919.850.9954
Fax: 919.850.9424

(3) **Be honest.** *Proverbs 27:9* “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel.” Our friends should know that they can trust us to give them honest counsel.

(4) **Be forgiving.** *Proverbs 17:17* says, “A friend loveth at all times...” It didn’t say that a friend loveth when everything is going right.

(5) **Recognize that your friends are not perfect and you aren’t either.** *John 8:7* “...he that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone...”

(6) **Be secure about yourself & don’t compete.** Jesus didn’t compete with the disciples. He focused on doing what He was called to do and allowed them to do what they were called to do. In *John 15:14-15* Jesus calls the disciples His friends & He is so secure of Himself and “in-tune” with the Holy Spirit that all things that He heard of His Father, He made known unto them. He was discrete, but not secretive and competitive.

(7) **Keep your word.** God keeps His Word to us & He is the best and closet friend that we can ever have. If you say you are going to do something, do your best to keep your word!

(8) **Be giving, thoughtful & value your friends.** *John 15:13* says “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” God showed us that He loves us by giving us His best—His only begotten Son. Jesus loves us so much that He chose to give His life! Recognize that the relationships that God has established in your life should be valued. How do we value things? With our time and money. Take time to call, send an e-mail, send a post card, letter or gift. Don’t take your friends for granted by treating them just any way. When you truly value something, you don’t handle it & treat it just any way. Think about how you treat material things in your life that you value—a ring, a car, etc. You don’t just handle them carelessly. Let’s do a better job of valuing the people that God places in our lives.

(9) **Have pure motives.** Are you a friend with someone because of the position they hold at work or at church or because of their financial status or what you “think” they can do for you? Make sure your motives are pure when you choose your friends.

Again, pray and ask God to help you be a godly friend and to help you **choose** your friends. Jesus said in *John 15:16* “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...” The Father will lead you who to choose as your friends. Let’s focus on living our lives so that others can benefit from the relationship that they have with us. After all, the anointing on you is not just for you, but for others also.

In His Love,

Deirdre S. Council
Co-Pastor

Ministry Update

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Sunday services held at 10:00am & weekly Bible studies held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Kiwanis Park Recreational Center, 2526 Noble Road, Raleigh, NC.

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We held our first Sunday service on January 19, 2003. We would like to thank all of you who attended our first Sunday service! People came all the way from Indianapolis, IN, Richmond, VA, Kinston, Goldsboro, & Durham, NC & neighboring areas. We had 37 people in attendance. God moved mightily & many people were delivered & set free. We also want to thank all of you who called or sent e-mails to wish us well! Your support means a lot to us. Thank you again for your support.

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