Women of Africa Care Pty Ltd

WOAC On Air – 06 April 2023

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Episode 45 – Friend, what kind of friend are you, are you like Job's Friends?

Definition of Friend
"One attached to another by affection or esteem" Mirriam webster dictionary (Synonyms buddy, confidant, pal, companion)

Friends have covenant through "Friendships"
A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

What does friendship mean to Vilosh Moodley? (Reference Day 33-WOAC 40-day journal guide)
Friendship means receiving and being there to care, love, listen, lead, guide, advise and give wise counsel, give time, bless, support, encourage, uplift, and exhort. Different friendships bring different things to your life and are for different purposes. Some friends are there for a season in your life, some are everlasting.

Qualities of Good Friends

"A good friend is like a good neighbor – Good Samaritan"

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **30** In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. **31** A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' **36** "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" **7** The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:29-42)

Jesus were friends with Mary and Martha. Do you have friends like Mary or Martha?
Martha served her friends, Mary spent quality time with her friends.

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, without knowing where he was going.” (Hebrews 11.8)

“Faith” Pistis - belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness.
Mutual understanding of friendship covenant - Abraham Believed God / Abraham Trusted God – God Believed and Trusted Abraham that he would fulfil the purposes of God.

Abraham trusted God and left his family and lifelong familiar environment to follow God’s promise. God could trust Abraham with His assignment of populating a God nation when He saw that Abraham was willing to give up His only son to God.

1. Analysing Job’s Friendship with Eliphaz, Zophar, Bildad and young Elihu- Eliphaz (Chapter 4,5,22) Zophar (Chapter 11,15,20) Bildad (Chapter 8,18,25) Elihu (Chapter 32,33,34,35,36,37)

2. Impact of bad friendships:

    a) “Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (1 Corinthians 15.33)

    b) “One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18.24)

    c) They cheer you along the wrong ambitions in life – “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14.12)

    d) Competitive – they are dominating and will compete with you so that you always remain below their success level.

    e) They never make you feel good about yourself even when it warrants a good compliment because they afraid your positive outlook will lead you to prosper and leave them in failure avenue. So, by pulling you down in every aspect of your life they keep you below their outlook of themselves.

    f) Gossip – Toxic friends feel no shame in speaking evil about you. They misrepresent you to others. People in general like a good gossip, and to gain popularity they thrive to make others look bad while they look good, so a good gossip for them seems to go a long way.

    g) Vampires – draining your positivity and energy out of you. their negativity / moaning / complaining steals your positivity and you become offended by small things.

    h) A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. (Proverbs 16.28)

    The attributes of Good Friendships:

    “After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42.10)

    FRIENDS Love at all times – “Whoever would foster love covers over an offense.” (Proverbs 17.9)

FRIENDS 40-day journal inspiration Day 33: Friendship Affirmations are necessary to build lasting friendships because we will all go in the way of our affirmations. Positive affirmations help us develop healthy friendship boundaries. If we want to be a good friend, and desire good friends then we must have self-worth and see others worth! Affirmations reminds us of who we are, and it reminds our friends who they are. And together we rise by building ourselves and our Friends!

Friendship Affirmations:

Some affirmations to apply in your friendships:

1. Chosen-I am chosen and wanted;
2. Accepted - I am important and valued;
3. Loved - I am beloved by God more fully than I could ever imagine. "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is." (Ephesians 3:18 NLT);
4. Forgiving - I do not hate or walk in unforgiveness. Forgiveness is a process; God gives me the strength to walk it out. — 1 John 2:11; But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness…Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you;
5. Self-less - Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up;"
6. Aesthetic - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well; Psalm 139:14
7. Attractive - I am someone who easily gets friends, this is a pleasant thing for me to do! I possess very useful qualities when it comes to friendships! These qualities are easily recognized, and, as a result, friendships follow! I love being surrounded by friends, true friends, friends who make me smile, friends who help me out! I am a person worthy of true friendships, and I am a great friend too!
8. Love - A friend always loves, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:17