

Friendship

Imagine for a moment actually knowing God and walking with Him in a close friendship. Not just being the recipient of some wonderful blessings or gifts that He has given you from a far distance, but actually being a friend to God. You'd never be left all alone. You'd never have to be afraid. You could face rejection from others, knowing that your Loved-One is nearby. Tough decisions would certainly be easier, with your Father there by your side. And a walk through the garden would certainly never be the same again (remember that hymn?).

Enoch, Noah, and Levi walked with God. Abraham was God's friend. Moses knew God face to face. Jesus called His disciples His friends.

Jesus even goes as far as to say that eternal life itself is **knowing** God the Father and Jesus (John 17:3). Sounds to me like He is saying that is something available to us even now.

Now, I think there is a clear distinction between knowing about someone or knowing who someone is, versus actually knowing the person—having a relationship or friendship or fellowship with him or her.

I don't believe that the Scriptures mentioned above have anything to do with simply knowing about God or knowing who He is. I mean, even the demons know about God (James 2:19). Clearly, God wants to know us... really know us.

Many things could be said about this, but I'll focus on one simple thought that goes with this series of *SpiritFire* Scoops.

At the very end of Paul's second letter to the Corinthian believers, he offers this doxology (word of Glory):

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Most translations use the word fellowship here in reference to our relationship with the Holy Spirit. But in light of all that's been mentioned thus far, couldn't we safely say, "*the friendship of the Holy Spirit.*"

In Galatians 5, we are encouraged not only to "*live in the Spirit*" but also to "*walk by the Spirit.*"

So much more could be said about this wonderful relationship and friendship....

Do you walk with God closely, intimately, conversationally in a conscious way? Do you know His Presence with you every moment of the day? Do you talk to Him and listen for Him? Are you His servant and co-worker for goodness and truth in this World, as His Kingdom continues to save and bless people?

You can know God and walk with Him. He is right around you all the time, and His Spirit even lives within you. He wants to be your Friend, as well as your Lord and King and Father.

Prayer

Father, help me draw near to you and know you like a friend. I know that you are right here with me, even in this very moment. I want to know you and walk with you everyday.

Thank you for your grace, given to me in Jesus. I want to follow Him and learn from Him. Thank you for your love. I want to experience it and share it with others. And thank you for your fellowship through the Holy Spirit. I want to walk in His friendship. Amen.

Scott

Adapted from SpiritFire!