**Healthy Church Series**

**Topic: Creations, Children, Sons, Servants and Friends of God (Part 5)**

**Text: *John 15:14-15, James 2:23, Gal. 4:1-7***

**Introduction:**

Today, we will be concluding our discussion on the different levels of relationship with God. The ultimate purpose of our adoption into God’s family is for us to become His friends so that we can fellowship with Him, Ish 1:18, Gen 3:8. Just like Christ is the express image of the father (Heb 1:1-3, Col 115-16) and there is eternal relationship between the father, son and the holy spirit, we also are adopted so that we can become co-hire with Christ and share in the eternal fellowship of the God head. The redemptive power of the cross is only complete when we have become one with God in friendship. Yet, on the way to becoming God’s friend, we need to move from children, sons and daughters and servants till we finally become His friends and join those cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1). It is important to know that while servanthood might be focused on gains, friendship is more about relationship and motivated by love. To become God’s friend, we need to move beyond what we get from him but to love him whether or not we get anything from him, Dan 3:15-18. But how can mortal men befriend an immortal God?

**Friendship with God:**

A friend is defined as a person whom one knows and with whom once has a bond of mutual affection. Abraham demonstrated one of the greatest evidence of faith by his obedience to God’s instruction without question and he was called God’s friend. Our Lord Jesus also promoted his disciples from servants to friends so that they can share in his divine nature. Only when we become friends with the Lord that we know His secrets, plans and vision for us and other people (Ps 103:7). We should also know that, just like it happened to the disciples, it’s only the Lord that can promote us to friendship.

**Attributes of God’s friend:**

* They know God for themselves – Heb 8:11, Jer 31-34, John 17:3

God’s friends have the holy spirit so they are able to know God for themselves. Though they are perpetual student of the word, they are not pushed around by the wind of doctrine because they are fully grounded in Him. Although they hear from pastors, apostles, prophets and other ministers of God, they fully rely on God through the holy spirit

* They are enemy to the things and people of the world – Jam 4:4

They know that their friendship with God automatically makes them enemies to the devil and his cohorts in the world. However, they perpetually fellowship other God’s friends. They don’t abandon the fellowship of the brethren.

* They have put on immortality - 1 Cor 15:53, Rom 2:7-8, 2 Cor 5:2-4

Like attracts likes. So, mortals befriend mortals while immortals befriend immortals. In fact, we are made to understand that knowing God is equivalent to immortality or eternal life. Therefore, clothed with immortality, God’s friends are able to relate with an immortal God. For God’s friends, there’s no difference between life and death.

* God respects them - Ex 32:13-14

God honors the words of His friends just like they honor His words. He makes things happen for them for the purpose of the friendship. He would never abandon them or leave them in limbo just like they would never abandon His kingdom.

* God shares secrets with them - Gen 18: 17-18, 1 Cor 2:10-16, Det 29-19

God would reveal more of himself, His plans and other people’s plans to His friends. He will not keep His friends in the dark. Also, God’s friends do not keep secrets from Him. They expose their heart pure and impure unto Him. They don’t hide any area of their lives from Him. They let him have every space in them.

**Conclusion:**

We have discussed different levels of relationship with God, from being His creations to being His friends through our adoption in Christ Jesus. While it’s only God that can declare us His friends, we should strive to be faithful servants and continue to pray for Him to make us worthy of His friendship. May the holy spirit continue to work on us until He is fully glorified in our mortal bodies in Jesus name.