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# GOD ENJOYS YOU

EXODUS 24



**How would you describe your relationship with God? Non-existent? Distant? On and off? Mechanical? Functional? Love-hate? One-sided? None of these are very enjoyable, are they? Wouldn't you love to have a better, deeper, more enjoyable relationship with God? Of course you would. We'd all love that.**

Well, I've got good news for you. We can actually be friends with God. That's right, friendship with God is possible and enjoyable. In fact, friendship with God is the most wonderful experience in the world. Here are three surprising truths from Exodus 24 that I hope will encourage you to enter, or enter deeper, into friendship with God.

## LEARNING

### GOD WANTS OUR FRIENDSHIP (1)

God invited Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel to **“come up to the Lord”** (1). He called them up to worship him, but **“from afar.”** God expressed a desire for friendship but wanted to caution them upfront that this was not like a buddy-buddy friendship. This was a holy friendship.

GOD WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH US,  
MORE THAN WE WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM.

“I don't want a long-distance relationship. I want a close friendship.” The good news is that so does God, but he has to make it safe for us first.

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## GOD SECURES OUR FRIENDSHIP (2-8)

God wanted friendship with Israel, but he also wanted it to be a safe and secure friendship. That's why he next removed the danger involved in sinful Israelites becoming friends with a holy God. In Moses, he provided a mediator, or a go-between (2-3). In the Book of the Covenant, he provided a guide for their relationship (4-7). And in the sprinkled blood, he provided forgiveness and cleansing. **Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words" (8).**

GOD DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE  
TO MAKE HIS FRIENDSHIP POSSIBLE.

"I enjoy being friends with God, but I'm pretty sure God doesn't enjoy being friends with me." That's where we're so wrong.

## GOD ENJOYS OUR FRIENDSHIP (9-18)

Verses 9-11 contain some of the most astounding words in the whole Bible. Listen to them: **Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank" (9-11).** Just let that sink in. They saw the God of Israel. They ate and drank with the God of Israel. In Middle Eastern culture, eating and drinking together was the ultimate proof and pleasure of friendship. God wanted to see them and be seen by them. God wanted to enjoy them and be enjoyed by them.

GOD FEASTS ON OUR FRIENDSHIP,  
SO WHY DO WE STARVE OURSELVES OF IT?

LOVING

There is no greater proof that God wants our friendship, secures our friendship, and enjoys our friendship than the life and death of Jesus. Jesus puts New Testament flesh on the Old Testament bones of friendship. In the Lord's Supper, he even provides a regular meal to renew our friendship. There we can see God. There we can eat and drink with God. There we can enjoy God's friendship through Jesus.

LIVING

Respond to God's offer of safe, secure, supreme friendship, and enjoy his joy in you.

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