

## David – A Man After God’s Heart Forging Friendships

THREE reactions to what David did to Goliath. That of

- i. The crowd (1 Samuel 18:7)
- ii. King Saul
- iii. Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-5)

“Jonathan’s friendship entered David’s soul in a way that Saul’s hatred never could”.  
Eugene Peterson

*One key ingredient we learn about both of them that was vital for a strong bond between them was their undeniable belief and faith in God.*

Jonathan says, “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6)

So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. (1 Samuel 20:16-17)

- o Jonathan, “was very fond of David and warned him” (19:1-2).
- o Put aside any personal goals and ambitions, did all he could to rescue David from the paranoid intentions of Saul
- o Kept David informed about Saul’s words and actions (vv. 3-7).
- o Jonathan and David re-asserted their mutual friendship with a series of solemn oaths, often taken in the Lord’s name (20:2-3, 9, 12-17, 21, 42).

“The Lord is witness between you and me ... forever” (1 Sam 20:23)

Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town. (1 Sam 20:42)

After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most. (1 Sam 20:41)

Read 1 Samuel 23:16-18.

### **Key truths about spiritual friendship.**

What is a spiritual friend?

Questions to ask concerning spiritual friends.

A. How can I find one?

1. Search – spend time in prayer.
2. Put yourself in place where you can meet potential friends
3. Test the water
  - Go slow.
  - Be patient.
  - Take small risks.
  - Polite conversation.
  - Questions you know answer to.
  - Expose some areas of struggle - how does this person respond?
  - Do they only want to talk about themselves? Do they judge? Do they honour confidentiality.
  - Schedule a time to get together
  - Start to share on a deeper level.
4. Establish a covenant (expectations, meeting, ground rules).

B. How many spiritual friends?

C. Is spiritual friendship really worth the effort, time and pain involved?

**Around The Corner** (Henson Towne)