

Five Minute Revival: Friendship with God

Many Bible truths are simple. They may not be easy, but they are simple. Five Minute Revivals focus on truths that will change your Christian experience. Embrace truth that will bring adventure to your walk with God.

I am using the KJV with minor adaptations of my own.

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A personal revival starts with a deepening relationship with God. The texts chosen for this topic are not all exclusive, but are meant to help the believer understand the relationship God wants to have with each believer, and then with a group known as the church. This study tells us how to recognize when we have moved from “servant of God” to “friend of God”. Read the first three texts.

Matthew 3:1-2 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 1:14-15 “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him (Nicodemus), Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

I joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1980. Until 2015 I thought the “kingdom of God” or the “Kingdom of heaven” was about where we would go after Jesus’ return. Now I understand that these terms refer to God’s kingdom on earth. Hebrew was a very concrete religion. Where is your hand? That is how close the kingdom was to the people being spoken to by John the Baptist and Jesus.

When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, Nicodemus could have reached out his hand to touch the Kingdom of God, that is Jesus. Nicodemus could not understand this so finally Jesus says to him, (my paraphrase) John 3:14 “Nicky you are not going to understand this kingdom thing right now, but when you see me lifted up as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, you will understand this is not an accident, but a kingdom moment. You will get it then, and know what to do for me.”

The first step in moving towards friendship with God is to be “born from above”. The evidence of being born from above is to “see God’s kingdom on earth”. When you see the kingdom and minister as directed by God you will take the first step. When you read the gospel with this mindset you will see Jesus teaching His disciples how to “see the kingdom”. An example of this is John 4 the story of the woman at the well that is Jesus’ attempt to help his disciples see his kingdom includes Samaritans.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knows not what his lord does: I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.”

Jesus taught His disciples in Bible times to be His friends. And the promise of John 14:26 is the Holy Spirit is still making Friends of God today. Would you like to be a Friend of God? It starts by looking for His kingdom around you. It can be at work, at play, in your daily activities, and even in your church. God is not just calling you to servanthood, but to friendship. Join the adventure of an eternal lifetime. Become God’s Friend.