

Spiritual Friendship

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:12-17; 23:15-18

“DiMaggio died as he lived... without intimates of any sort, an object of feverish curiosity, cloaked in impenetrable secrecy, swaddled in myth. With family looking on in the church, with fans watching out in the street, with the nation looking in on TV, America said goodbye to the loneliest hero we have ever had.”

- Newsweek

1 Samuel 18:1

“The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

Spiritual friendship is also a covenant

1 Samuel 18:3

“Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.”

1 Samuel 20:42

Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’”

**Jonathan's covenant connection with David
was rooted in the covenant loyalty and
covenant love of God**

“an elected, as opposed to natural,
relationship of obligation under divine
sanction.”

- Hugenberger

**It is who God is to be loyal to his covenant
promises**

**Knowing and experiencing God's covenant
love is foundational for all spiritual friendship**

John 15:13

“greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

The more confident we are in God's covenant love for us in Christ, the more likely we will be to commit deeply to others in true spiritual friendship.

“What happiness, what security, what joy, to have someone to whom you dare to speak on terms of equality as to another self, one to whom you need have no fear to confess your failings, one to whom you can unblushingly make known what progress you have made in the spiritual life, one to whom you can entrust all the secrets of your heart, and before whom you can place all your plans.

What, therefore, is more pleasant than to so unite oneself to the spirit of another and of two to form one, that no boasting is thereafter to be feared, no suspicion to be dreaded, no correction of one by the other to cause pain.” Aelred

“Friendship heightens the joys of prosperity and mitigates the sorrows of adversity by dividing and sharing them.” Aelred

1. It must be centered and rooted in God's covenant with Us.

2. It is not optional.

3. It is risky and costly.

4. It requires transparency and vulnerability.

5. It is about being Strengthened in God.

“And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.” And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord.” 1 Samuel 23:16-17