

Change Your World Part 4: Powerful Friendships

Memory Verse:

(Matthew 5:13, 14,16 GNT) You are like salt for the whole human race... You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid... In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Causes for Weak and Superficial Friendships

- ✓ Around others yet alone
- ✓ Substitute connections
- ✓ No training

Biblical Example of a Powerful Friendship

(1 Samuel 18:1-3 NIV) After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

Principles of Powerful Friendship

1. Powerful Friendships Work to Connect

(Ruth 1:16-17 NIV) But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

2. Powerful Friendships Require Honesty

*(Proverbs 12:26 NLT) The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.
(Ephesians 4:15) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

3. Powerful Friendships are Encouraging

(1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

4. Powerful Friendships Build Trust

(1 Samuel 20:17 NIV) And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

(1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV) We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

5. Powerful Friendships Serve Each Other

(John 15:13 NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.