

May 28, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Extreme Friendship

Strengthen your friendships with God as a foundation.

Pray for your friends, and your friendships. Make a lasting foundation.

Strong Foundations

EXTREME FRIENDSHIP

What are the foundations of your friendships?

Friendship that last, that goes the distance, well it's kind of rare. How do you keep your friendships growing and going? What is the foundation that you are building off of. When you look at the giant sky scrapers of the city you can see the tallest part of the building and you can see the street level. But it is what you don't see that keeps the building standing. The foundation that goes many levels down below the street that gives the building it strength to stand and bare the weight of the complete structure. What are the foundations of your friendships? What are you building on? What are you doing to strengthen the foundations so your friendships will last? Lets take a look at Jonathan's and David friendship and see what caused their friendship to last the distance, even when it was under great attack.

"May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever" (1 Sam. 20:42). Here's the coolest thing about their friendship. It lasted. It was intended to last.

It was built like a skyscraper. It weathered the storms of life. It outlived them. When you look at 1 Sam. 20:42 you get a clue to the foundation that they built their friendship upon. May the Lord be between you and me. God was a key part of their friendship. God was the main foundation. This foundation went deep and it was the strength of the friendship. Think about your friendships, which ones have God as the foundation? Which ones don't have God as part of the foundation? Can you see a difference between the friendships? When we include God in the friendship, it changes the focus of the friendship, it causes the friendship to be based on something more, something lasting. Jonathan's and David's friendship was intended to last, it was suppose to go the distance. What does it look like to have God as a foundation in your friendships? How do you develop your friendships around God? It has to do with what we looked at last week, in the connections that we have with our friends.

How strong are your friendships...
"Pray for your friends, and your friendships.
Make a lasting foundation."



God speaks about it this way. A cord of three strands is not easily broken. When you think about rope is is only as strong as the cords that are woven together to make it. What are the three strands? Well in friendship there is the cord of you, the cord of your friend, and the cord that is God. When you weave these three together you have a cord that is unbreakable. Learning how to weave these cords together with prayer and life together is the coolest part of friendship...

Continued on page 3...

Live in the day make your friendships deep

"Breathe in Breathe Out"

I always think tomorrow will be better
That there will come a day when I arrive
That the list of everything I've got to do
Will be a page of empty lines

I apologize to myself for living in the future
And letting what's ahead get in the way
Because if happiness is always down the road
Then I'm missing it today

(Chorus)

Breathe in, Breathe out
Slow down, slow down
Everybody look around
Life is where we are now
Breathe in, Breathe out

(Verse)

I don't need no money to be wealthy
There's more to life than working for green
Climbing all these ladders doesn't matter
I've got everything I need

(Bridge)

I'm running a race that no one wins
And setting the pace for the Joneses
But I see the warning signs
Those yellow flashing lights
And I wonder why



This song is featured on the Every Good Thing album by The Afters

FRIENDSHIP

EXTREME APPLICATION

It takes purpose and thought to make your friendships grow, and to include God into your friendships. Let be honest the enemy does not want us to have strong friendships, especially ones that have God as part of the foundation. So we must fight and take on the battle and dig out a foundation for our friendships that will last!

"Pray for your friends, and your friendships.

Make a lasting foundation."

Think About it

Your friendships define a great deal about who you are. They shape us and develop us to be the people we are becoming. Make a point to develop friendships that will last. Pray for your friendships.

What are the foundations of your friendships cont...

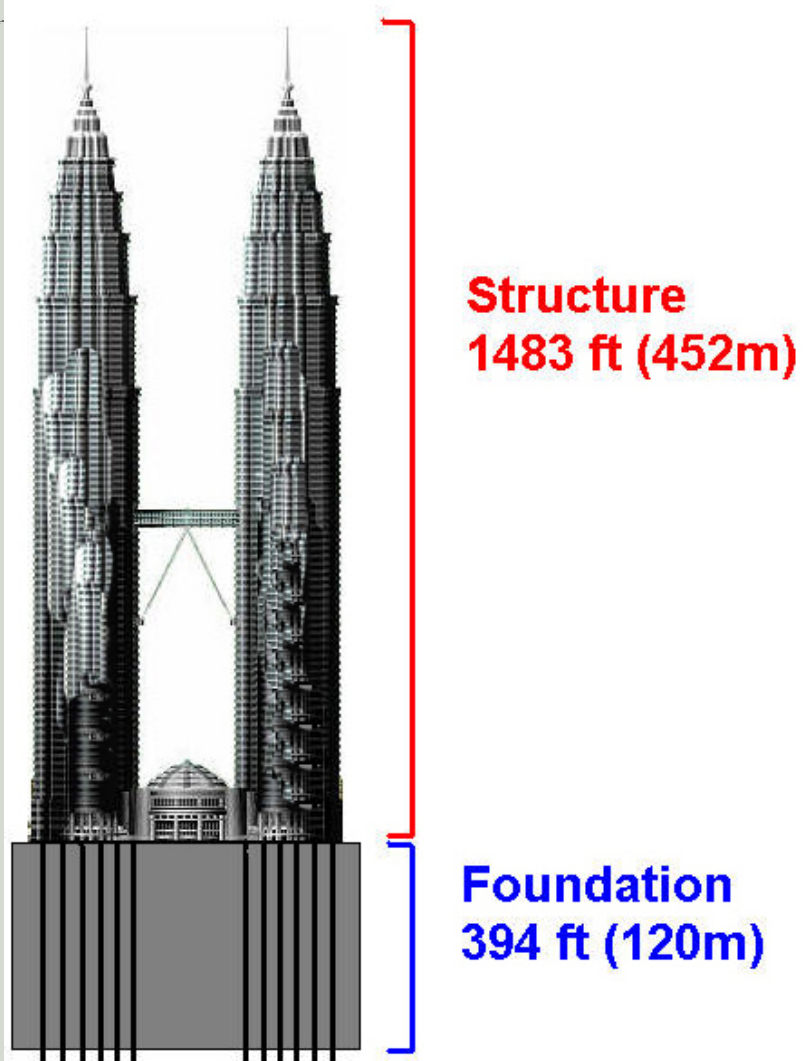
Let's take a look at what God say about friendships and the strength they are to have when He is included in the friendship. Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

When we include God into our friendships we make our friendships stronger. A great starting place for our friendships begins with prayer. When we pray for our friends, and our friendships we are allowing God to become part of the foundation. How often do you pray for your friends? Do your friends pray for you and your friendship? Allowing God to speak into your friendship strengthens the friendship and allows it to become a cord of three strands. Including God into the relationship set the friendship up to last.

Praying for your friends should be something that we just do. It should be part of our friendship foundations. Especially if your friends don't have a relationship with God. We as christians tend to pray for our christian friends, but often times we for get to pay for our non christian friends. We all need prayer and we all need our friendships to have God as a foundation, but when you pray for your non-christian friends you are seeking to impact the friendship in ways that will have eternal impact. Take some time over the months and pray for your friends and your friendships, and see what happens when God becomes part of the foundation. With God in the equation things will change your friendships will deepen and strengthen. Find out what is going on in your friends lives, pray for these things. Go into battle for your friends and know that you are part of a bigger picture in their life. They need your prayers just as you need your friends prayers.

A cord of three strands is not easily broken and we have to go for it, we have to care enough to include God! So take the time to care and dig in deep and pray for your friendships and watch what God does.



It is all about the foundations:

To build something that will last, to build something that will be seen from a distance, you have to dig down and dig deep foundations. The tallest buildings have the deepest foundations, the same is for friendships. You have to make your foundations deep and strong. When God is part of the foundation then the friendship will stand and last. Including God as part of the friendship starts by praying for your friends and friendships.



DIG IN

Read Ecclesiastes 4:12

What are strands that hold your friendships together?

What is Ecclesiastes 4:12 describing? What are the three strands?

What are some ways that you can make your friendships stronger?

Write out things you can pray for, for your friends, and friendships:

“When we are us we can develop friendships that are strong and real.”

STEP ONE:

Serve

STEP TWO:

Love ‘em
like yourself

STEP THREE:

Emotionally
connected

STEP FOUR

Make it last
Strong Foundation

CONNECTIONS GO DEEP

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

EXTREME APPLICATION

I've read about Jonathan and David a ton of times. I've seen four things that these two guys did to build, strengthen, and continue their friendship.

The Fourth thing that stands out in Jonathan and David's friendship

MODERN EXTREMES

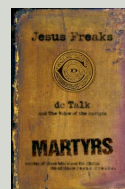
“Walled In” Wrunken Roneses, Flanders 1500s

"I found one!" The Inquisitor held up the forbidden book as he called to his assistant "Bring in the mayor and his family. Someone is studying the Bible in this house!" In the 16th century, Philip II sent the Duke of Alba to Flanders to stamp out the Protestants who insisted on reading the Scriptures in their own language. Anyone found studying the Bible was hanged, drowned, torn in pieces, or burned alive at the stake. The Inquisitors had found the Bible while inspecting the house of the Mayor of Brugge. One by one, family members were questioned, but everyone claimed they knew nothing about how the Bible got to their house. Finally the officials asked the young maid-servant, Wrunken, who boldly declared, "I am reading it!" The mayor, knowing the penalty for studying the Bible, tried to defend her, saying, "Oh, no, she only owns it. She doesn't ever read from it." But Wrunken chose not to be defended by a lie. "This book is mine. I am reading from it, and it is more precious to me than anything!" She was sentenced to die by suffocation. A place would be hollowed in the city wall, she would be tied in it, and the opening would be bricked over. On the day of her execution, as she stood by the wall, an official tried to get her to change her mind, saying, "So young and beautiful — and yet to die* » Wrunken replied, "My Savior died for me. I will also die for Him." As the bricks were laid higher and higher, she was warned again. "You will suffocate and die in here!" "I will be with Jesus," she answered. Finally, the wall was finished,

except for the one brick that would cover her face. For the last time, the official tried to persuade her. "Repent — just say the word and you will go free." But Wrunken refused, saying instead, "O Lord, forgive my murderers." The brick was put in place. Many years later, her bones were removed from the wall and buried in the cemetery of Brugge. Wrunken trusted her life to Jesus, knowing that the end of her life on earth was not the end of her life.

So we always have courage. We know that while we live in this body, we are away from the Lord. We live by what we believe, not by what we can see... We really want to be away from this body and be at home with the Lord. Our only goal is to please God whether we live here or there.

Paul the Apostle Martyred in Rome, 65 AD
(2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-9 NCV)



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks &
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

A product of XGT and CCAspen

Visit us @ thexgtexperience.weebly.com