

## PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

*A Manifesto on  
The Meaning of Life*



CHRISTIAN EMBASSY

## IX. FRIEND OF GOD CH 11-12

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Imagine there is a powerful God who made us and the world we live in. Imagine that this God actually loves us and wants to meet the deepest needs of our life and soul. However, we have offended this God by our active rebellion or passive indifference, thereby separating us from our very source of life. Despite that, this holy God, at great personal cost, offered us a second chance—an opportunity to call Him Father, and to be known as His friend. Imagine.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:13-15). Rick Warren says, “You are as close to God as you choose to be” (p. 92).

Warren suggest 6 spiritual secrets of friendship with God: (1) Constant conversation with Him, (2) Continual meditation on His word, (3) Being honest with God, (4) Obeying God in faith, (5) Value what God values, and (6) Desire friendship with God above all else. Today, we will seek to understand what that looks like in our daily experience.

One of the early church fathers, Augustine of Hippo said, “For although, unless he understands somewhat, no man can believe in God, nevertheless by the very faith by which he believes, he is helped to the understanding of greater things. For there are some things which we do not believe unless we understand them; and there are other things which we do not understand unless we believe them.”

### Read Psalm 73:

1. Read 1-2. Asaph begins with a premise in verse 1. Is it true? On what basis could it be disputed? Supported? Do you think Asaph really believed this?
2. Read 3-5. What is Asaph’s concern? What is the apparent condition of the people he describes? What causes you to have similar feelings?
3. Read 6-12. What is the true condition of those without a true faith in God?
4. Read 13-16. Describe the temptation, torment, tension that he expresses. Dare we be so honest?
5. Read 17-21. What caused Asaph to reconsider his position?
6. Read 22-28. Asaph saw reality differently than at first. What changed? What is priority? How does this example relate to the 6 secrets of friendship with God?

*There is nothing, --absolutely nothing—more important than developing a friendship with God.  
It’s a relationship that will last forever. (p. 99)*