

April 28, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's 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. (NIV)

Are you a friend of God? In other words, do you want to draw close to Him? Do you want to live in His presence? Do you desire to become more like Him daily? These are questions that we must ask ourselves if we really do want to live the abundant life that He has laid out for us.

I think that many times we might look at this phrase: *to lay down one's life for one's friends* and think this means I must jump in front of them when they are about to be hit by a car or something similar. But really, Jesus is talking about obedience to the Father. The more we die to our own desires and become alive to Him, the closer we draw near to Him. For many years I have been reminded of a simple illustration (inserted below) that I always share with young couples who want to be married.

The closer we draw near to the LORD, the closer we become to each other. In fact, the LORD wants us to become one. One in heart. One in spirit. One in purpose. And as we make this commitment and begin this life-long journey, we start to see that our focus changes more and more from us to Him.

Dear LORD, help us to keep our eyes on You. You are all that we really need. And as we seek You first, all the other things shall be added to us as well. In Jesus Name, Amen