

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Friend of God Israel Houghton/Michael Gungor © Capitol CMG Publishing/Integrity Music

If you'd like to hear the song: <https://youtu.be/C8oUnDoolXo>

Who am I that you are mindful of me, that you hear me when I call?  
Is it true that you are thinking of me? How you love me? It's amazing!

I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God he calls me friend.  
God almighty, Lord of glory, you have called me friend!

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Romans 10:11-13 *"Scripture reassures us; no one who trusts God like this – heart and soul - will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be; the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. Everyone who calls, "Help, God!" gets help."* The Living Bible<sup>1</sup>

Matthew 7:8 *"Everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open."* The Living Bible<sup>1</sup>

"Who am I that you are mindful of me..." Have you ever asked yourself this question? What was your answer? Have you ever looked at why you feel that way? If you have any doubts or feel you are undeserving, take these to God and pray the words of 1 Peter 5:7 *"Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking of you, and watching everything that concerns you."* (The Living Bible<sup>1</sup>)

The Bible is filled with reassurances that God loves us and is working for our good. What is your favorite verse of reassurance? Why?

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In Matthew 7:8 Jesus tells us *“If only you will knock, the door will open.”* Why do you think He tells us we have to knock? Is this something you do? If not, why? If you do, describe how that feels.

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God almighty, Lord of glory, you have called me friend!

John 15:15-16a Jesus said *“I don’t call you servants any longer; servants don’t know what the master is doing, but I have told you everything the Father has said to me. I call you friends. You did not choose me. I chose you.”* The Voice Bible<sup>2</sup>

2 Corinthians 5:20b *“We are speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.”* The Message<sup>3</sup>

What does it mean to you to have a friend? How does this apply to having God as your friend?

How can you be a friend to God? What might it look like if everyone believed they are a friend of God and acted that way? What can you do to help someone recognize and accept that they are God’s friend?

Luke 5:18-25 *“Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a bed, and they tried to carry him into the house and put him in front of Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could find no way to take him in. So they carried him up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles, and let him*

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*down on his bed into the middle of the group in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, “Your sins are forgiven, my friend.” The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks such blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!” Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’ I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home!” At once the man got up in front of them all, took the bed he had been lying on, and went home, praising God.”*

The Good News Translation<sup>4</sup>

Can you see parallels between this story and Jesus’ life and ministry? In what ways is Jesus like the friends of the paralyzed man?

In what ways have you seen Jesus intervene in the lives of others? In your life? Can you share this with your friends – can you lend them your faith when they feel “paralyzed” by situations they may find themselves in?

“Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God –  
all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done  
in dying for our sins – making us friends of God.”

Romans 5:11 The Living Bible<sup>1</sup>

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