

FRIENDSHIP

A JOURNEY



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the almighty God, my savior, lover and my utmost best friend and also to all my friends who have been with me all through my journey in life to this very point, and lastly to all those in search for true friendship.

INTRODUCTION

During my teenage age, I witnessed the life of the daughter of one of our neighbors then become a shadow of herself, simply because of the kind of friends she kept. Many lives and destiny have been shattered on the premise of friendship. Scriptures speaking in Proverb 13: 20 said, *“Walk with the wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm”*. It is on this note, I concluded that friendship is a journey. A journey everyone must embark on, and so it became of almost important that we look into this topic so will don't become casualty as we journey through this path. Because the end of a man is determined by his friends and that is while the word **FRIEND** ends with the word **END**.

As I interact with people most especially the generation of youth which I belong, it became clearer to me that there is a need to address the topic and subject of friendship. Choosing the people will associate with. Your relatives may not have been chosen by you, but we all owe ourselves the responsibility to choose our friends, the people we associate with, cause you are about to embark on a journey which will determine your end.

Chapter 1.

FRIENDSHIP

Honestly speaking, a lot of factors cause the elevation as well as the reduction of a man, and one of such important and vital factors is friendship.

The statement “show me your friend and I will tell you who you are” could be true but, I believe it will be much more true when you say, “Show me your friend, and I will tell you where you are going.”

Friendship is more like putting the one you love, like and know in your ship. A good analogy would be comparing friendship with a ship. Who you keep in your ship will either;

- Sink the ship
- Stop the ship from moving
- Retard the motion of the ship
- Bring havoc and commotion to the ship
- Maintain the rate at which the ship is moving, or
- Enhance the motion of the ship

The word friendship is important, that we cannot but give it attention and consideration. As such, in the light of the above listed outcome of those you put in

your ship, we will have to consider who should be in your ship, who should be your friend.

1. The one going to the same direction with you.

Not everyone you like and know should be in your ship, but the one who is also going to same direction with you. Let me give an example; A man once set on a journey, but along the way ended up making friends with another man. So, engrossed in the discussion as well as the excitement of having a new friend, sojourned with the man. After a long time, the man asks him, “friend, where are you heading?” He replied “I was heading nowhere.” Sad isn’t it?

Who are the people who you have surround yourself with? Those going nowhere, or those going somewhere?

However, you need to note that, not all “somewhere” might be your destination and direction. And so, you must find out where you are going. Don’t spend your life with time wasters.

Having the man headed in a different direction to yours will only put you in the place of;

- Stagnation
- Frustration

- Confusion
- And ultimately change in direction.

2. *The one ready to walk and work with you.*

A friend is meant to bring out the best in you. No one who is not ready to add or multiply you should be in your ship.

Friendship will either

- Subtract
- Divide
- Add
- Multiply you

Check your friends' list and categorize them. If they fall within those that subtract and divide, I'll advice you reconsider who you should surround yourself with, because you might never amount to who you are meant to be with such kinds of friends.

A wise man sad, "Friends are like elevators. They either bring you down, or take you up." Foes, your destiny is too precious to be handle in the hands of those who will divide and subtract you all in the name of friendship.

The one who is worth calling a friend should be the one who knows you as you are, understand where you have been, accept who you have become and still invite you to grow. If all you have around you as friends are those always demanding from you, feeding from you, collecting from you, without you being fed by them as well as being invested in by them, I submit to tell you that you are headed for trouble.

Walk and work with those who are ready and willing to walk and work with you.

3. The one who is ready to accept you the way you are.

Someone once asked me a question after speaking in one a certain seminar I was invited to “what should I do to someone who I so much long to be friend with, but think he can’t be friend with me because I don’t worth being his friend?”

My response was just this “let go of whoever he/she is he /she is probably not worth being your friend also.

One thing you must look out for in the person that should be your friend is the one who will accept you the way you are and gently invite you to grow. They may be good and even be the best in their own spheres of life but not good enough to belittle and look down on you. Avoid such people because the more you mingle

with them, the more you will see reasons to believe you are of low class, inferior and end you up in developing low self-esteem.

Such friends will only help you in reducing your worth and your value and leave you at the bottom. Choose your friends wisely because the greatness of a man can as well be influenced by the kinds of people that surrounds the man.

Chapter 2.

THE M&3Ds

The M&3Ds is an acronym of what the impact of friendship is, what friendship could do to man which could be positive or negative.

Analytically, M&3Ds means:

1. M – Motion

The speed of a man in life is a function of his association. Your association is what determines your acceleration.

A pastor friend of mine once told me of his experience when he was in a car that could possibly move at the speed of 160km/hr. but was stuck with another vehicle that could barely move at the speed of 80km/hr. They could not utilize the full potential of their vehicle. This is exactly what happens when we get stuck with speed killers and motion reducers.

Friendship is like a journey and how fast the journey will be completed is going to be determined by the kind of people embarking on that journey and the motion and speed at which they are moving.

You cannot mingle with chickens and expect to soar high like an eagle. Eagles think different. So those chickens. Thinking like an eagle will produce the eagle's life, same is thinking like a chicken.

Your association will either reduce, retard, sustain or increase your motion.

Associate and make friends with those who can complement your motion, not those who will conflict and friction your motion.

2. D – Decision

Decision is what determines one's destiny, decisions you see is decided by the individuals but could be influence by others, decision can either bring one down or take him up. A lot of men in the bible and even in our present days has made decisions that lead to their down fall, decisions that was birthed from wrong association. Example of such men was Amnon, the son of a great king David; his life became a tragedy the day he allowed his friend Jonadab who was his advisor influence his decision. 2Samuel 13: 1-29. Another example of a man whose life became a tragedy was Rehoboam, who could have been a great king and was reduced to nothing. The day he allowed the words of his friends to influence his decisions. 1king 12:1-16.

Mind you, I'm not trying to say you should not take the words and advice of the people you call friends, but am trying to show you what friends can do to your decisions and how this decisions impart who you eventually become, so you can be careful of the people you surround yourself with all in the name of friendship, the truth still remains that the right associate will produce and birth out right decisions.

Food for thought: Your decision gives you direction. Your direction marks your destination.

3. D – Direction

Every moving and living being has a direction. Like I stated earlier, friendship is like a journey, just as destiny is like a journey, and one determinant of a destination is direction. Our journey is what determines our destination” just as one’s motion could be influence by one’s associate so the direction of a man.

Moving with the wrong associate will definitely produce the wrong direction. “One way to define your direction is to define the kinds of friends around you”. Come to think of it, what could be the direction of a man moving with a man without direction? Life could be more easier when we put into consideration things that matter such as the kind of people we surround ourselves with, the way they think , how they view life, what could possibly be their dreams, their regards to purpose, morals and values it could be complicated, but it is a serious issue cause your life to a large extend depends on it. “Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20. NLT. Even the Bible use the word

walk, friendship is like taking a walk, you could either walk away from your God given plan, who you are meant to be, the divine kind of life designed for you to live or walk into your God given plan, as the walk continues.

This walk in question could either change, maintain or straighten and shape your direction. Don't take this for granted, because it has the ability to define where you will end.

4. D – Destination

In the word “friend” we have the word “end” meaning a man's end is a function of his friends.

Every journey definitely has a destination, but the question is, where is your present association leading you to?

There was this farmer who owns a farmland of grains, which was being disturbed by birds on continuous bases. This farmer also owns a parrot, and so one of this good day the farmer decided to shout at the birds, and so hide himself with his gun under the grasses, awaiting the arrival of the birds, unknowing to him, his parrot has gone to join the birds, and so as they were approaching the farmland, the farmer made a shoot at them, one of them was

shot, getting to see the bird that was shot, the farmer discovered the bird he shot was his parrot. With sadness on his face, he took the parrot to the house where his family live. They all came out to see what has happened to the parrot. When one of the children asked what happened, the parrot said, “This is what you get when you associate with the wrong association”. The parrot ends up being shot because he associated with the wrong friends, if any man must end well, he must first check and define his friends.

A man’s associate will either pervert, change, sustain, clarify or beautify his destination.

Chapter 3

WHO IS A REAL FRIEND?

I was just thinking, it is possible to have a friend that could be real? I mean, no matter what your ideology or perspective may be. It is very much possible to have a friend that is genuine, though they are rare, that is why you should choose your friends and not your friends choosing you, and this must be done wisely.

“The righteous choose their friends carefully”. **Proverbs 12:26.**

According to Bill Newman – a real friend is one who will talk to you on the phone even though he knows he is missing his favourite television program. The person you call a friend should cherish and value your friendship enough to the extent of paying sacrifices for that friendship to work, as a matter of fact, it takes sacrifices to make friendship work, meaning only those ready to pay the sacrifice should demand for friendship. If you can't sacrifice for the person you call your friend, then you are not worth calling him/her a friend. Mind you it goes vice versa.

A real friend should be ready to sacrifice his or her **R.E.S.T** with the people he calls friends.

Rest in this context means

R – Resource: Everything is built on love, and one of those is friendship. No friendship can survive if there is no love, and where there is love, there is this common thing that is inevitable. It's called giving.

There is always a time in friendship that what is needed at that point is not care, but giving. Everyone who must embark on this journey of friendship must be ready to share their resources. It could be in cash or in kind. It's something that we must not shy away from, we should be blessing to those we call our associates, the people we cherish and love.

E – Energy: Energy is best used where it is shared. Let others benefit from what you are capable of doing. One rule of mine is; to feel fulfilled, you've to extend your hand of help to others, making others share from your smile.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 remarked by saying 'Two are better than one, because they have good return for their labour; if either of them fall down, one can help the other up...'

Your own energy is there so you can share in the burdens, worries, tears, and weakness of those you called friends. You should be there to be the strength of the people you call your friends in time of their weakness, fight the battle together. This is what makes one to be a real friend.

S – Secret: It is definitely true that some things are meant to be secret; they are not meant to be shared but the question is what could you possibly achieve and accomplish from keeping secret all the time especially from those who matter to you (your associate). I believe one pillar of friendship is trust, it have been abuse and underestimate over the years, but the truth still remains that no matter how abusive people might have abuse trust, the truth still remains the truth, to a large extent, if there is no trust in friendship, that friendship might barely work. A real friend should be open to his or her friends especially to the real ones. So long as trust is there, I think I have early stated that we should choose our friends carefully, friends you could confide in, a friend you can't confide in is not a friend. Real friends should be trustworthy enough to earn the trust of their friends. Learn to let go of some of the burdens you carry around within you all in the name of keeping secret and share them with your trustworthy friends those you can confide in, nevertheless, you must be wise enough when doing so. A tree they said can't make a forest, and a drop of water can't form an ocean.

T – Time: As simple and easy as it may seem, time is one precious thing that must not lack in any kind of relationship as well as friendship. I hear people say a lot of time, "I have no time" "am so busy" "Am hooked up" and so on. The truth of this

is; no one has time, we all create one that is why it is called time management. If your friendship must last, then time must be given. A real friend is one, who will give time, spend time with the person he calls his friends, you spend time to at least listen to them, advise, converse, stay together, go out together, play and have fun together and all of that. It's might not be all the time but at least once in a while. My total belief is that the best investment a man could make is that of investing in people. So, spend time to time to do that because you might not have it again once you lose it.

Chapter 4.

THE THREE KINDS OF FRIENDS

The basic thing is that you don't expect everyone to be the same, and all the people that surround you to be of the same type, characteristic and so to be covered by God and walk in the area of Destiny, you can't be limited to just walking and working with people who just look like you, watch out for the characteristic of the people you come across.

There are three basic types of friends you'll come across and interact with as a child of Destiny. The first groups are:

1. **Confidants**- You will have very few of them, confidants are those people in your life who love you unconditionally, whether you are up or down, right or wrong, they always fall into the class of real friends, they are in for the long haul. If you get into trouble, they get into trouble with you, they will come to see you in the jail house, they will come get you out of the crack house, they are confidants, you can open up and share anything with them, you will never inherit your kingdom until you find your confidant, You can't be David until you find you Jonathan.

'Jonathan said to David; "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you"'

-1 Samuel 20 v 4

‘And Jonathan made David reaffirm his oath out of love from him, because he loved him as he loved himself’

-1 Samuel 20 v 17

This is the kind of friend you call a confidant, having a good confidant is the key that unlocks the Kingdom, they are going to mentor you for what God is going to do next for you in your life. The problem with most people is that everyone that runs around with or surround themselves with is under them and so you are forever feeding them, they begin to drain you. You need to have somebody who can feed you, so you can feed someone else.

The Confidants are those few people who come along in your life, or that are for you. They are with you, they are intimately intertwined in your life, they are there to make sure you reach your destiny. They will confront you, they will get into your face, into your business, they will tell you when you are wrong because they are confidants. If you have two or three of them in a lifetime, you are a blessed person. Without them, you will never be who God called you to be. You need to find your confidant.

The Second kind of Friends are...

2. **Constituents-** They are not for you neither are they into you they are only into what you are for. They are your constituents and as long as they are for what you are for, they will walk and work with you and labour with you; but never think they are for you. They are for what you are and you have to know that because if they meet someone else that will further their agenda, they will leave you and hook up with them because they were never for you, they were just for what you were for. They are your constituents and throughout your life, if you are not careful particularly if you are broke, you will mistake your constituents for your confidants and you will think they are there for you when they are really not for you. They are for what you are for, and by the time you get through falling in love with them, they will break your heart as they hook up with somebody else who is for what you are for because it was never about you anyway, it was about the cause you represent, they are for what you are for, but they are not for you, they are your constituents.

The third group of friends are...

3. **Comrades-** These group of friends are not for you nor are they for what you are for. They are against what you are against and the comrades will make strange bedfellows so this will make people come together who are not for you. They are not for what you are for but they are against what you are

against. They will team up with you to help fight a greater enemy. But don't be confused by their associations, they'll only be with you until the Victory is accomplished, these people or set of friends are like scaffolding, they come into your life to fulfill a purpose and when the purpose is complete, the scaffolding is removed, but don't be upset when they are removed because the building always remains when the scaffolding is removed. What I'm saying is that expect the constituent and the comrades to leave you and desert you after a while, don't be upset when they don't react to your dream the way you expected them to because they were never really with you in the first place, be careful then who you tell your dream to, because if you tell your dream to your constituents, they will desert you and try to fulfill the dream without you. If you tell it to your comrades, they won't support it because they were never for what you are for any way. If you find a people in your entire life with whom you can share your dream with, you are a blessed somebody.

NUGGETS

- A real friend is one who knows you as you are, understand where you have been, accept who you have become and still gently invites you to grow.

- One of the easiest ways to define your destination is to look at your association.

- Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

- Friendship is like taking a walk, you could either walk away from your destination or walk towards it.

- Your association determines your acceleration.

- If you want to know where you are going check the people you are moving with.

- Friends are like elevators. They either take you up or bring you down.

- Friendship is like a journey, and how fast the journey will be completed is going to be determined by the kind of people embarking on that journey and the speed at which they are moving.
- A real friend is one who will talk to you on the phone even though it means missing his favorite television program.

Do you have any questions, or need any clarification?

Did you make any decision while reading this book?

And you need help in following it through!

Write or contact

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Paul Adahwara is a youth pastor who is currently pasturing in Omega Fire Campus Fellowship UNIBEN (Ekenwan Campus), an arm of Omega Fire Ministry. Pastor P, as he is fondly called is a profound teacher of God's word. His passion to see the young people become the best version of themselves in God's plan for them has endeared him to many, especially the generation of youths.

He is a son to the family of Rev and Mrs Peter Adahwara and also a twin with Barnabas Adahwara among other of his siblings. His brother who they both grow up together biologically, spiritually as well as ministerially.

