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## *Spiritual Friendship Questions*

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- Name two people, other than your parents, who have really influenced your life, and tell how.
- What do you like to do with your friends? What do you like to do with your free time?
- If you were to take a vacation with a friend, who would you go with, where would you go, and what would you do?
- What is one quality you really like about yourself and why?
- What are two things you find have the most meaning for you in life? Why?
- If you were confined to a bed for a month and could have anyone other than Jesus visit you from history that month to talk, who would it be and why?
- Who are you closest to in your family and why?
- If you knew you could not fail, what are two things that you would like to do or accomplish within the next ten years?
- What three adjectives best describe your last week?
- What is the purpose of your life at this time? Do you feel like this purpose is being realized? Why or why not?
- What helps or encourages you in your faith?
- If you could ask Jesus any one question about yourself and know He would answer completely and clearly, what would it be?
- What causes the most problems, conflicts, etc., in your family?
- What areas of your life give you the most problems?
- What is one quality in your Christian life you want to grow in within the next five years?
- If you had to describe one frustration you have had with this group, what would it be?
- Where is it easiest for you to find God?
- Talk about pictures of God. What single words, images, or metaphors about God are most meaningful to you? What images or pictures do you find difficult, or are barriers for you? How does imagery affect your spiritual life?
- Consider the Christian community. How does being in the church impact your life in God? What experiences of meaningful community do you have? What are your needs and hopes in this area?
- What has been a pit experience in your life? In detail, describe how God worked through that experience. What crowns did God give you in that experience?
- What three words would you use to describe your life before you were a Christian? What three words would you use to describe your life after you became a Christian? Why the change?

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## *More Questions for Developing a Spiritual Friendship*

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*Below is another list of questions and ideas for helping you build a more substantial understanding of a person whom you are getting to know.*

1. Begin by sharing some of your spiritual history--your autobiography. What have been the high places and low places in your personal spiritual journey? Share one specific memory of feeling close to God, and one specific period when you felt distance from God.
2. Talk about the present. How do you feel about your relationship to God at the present time? What spiritual disciplines do you practice? What are the strengths and weaknesses in your personal use of spiritual disciplines? Where would you like to "go" in this area? What can help you? What hinders you?
3. Talk about prayer. What is the place and meaning of prayer in your life? Where is it easy and where is it hard? What kinds of prayer are you involved with? Where do you want to learn or grow in your prayer life?
4. Consider your key relationships. Are you able to pray and share spiritually with your close friends? If you're married, are you able to pray and share spiritually with your spouse? Why or why not? If you have children, are you spiritually close with them? What are your deepest desires in your marriage and family? How is it coming? Do you have any key relationships that need healing or forgiveness?
5. What helps or encourages you in faith? What hinders you in your desire to know and follow God?
6. How do you handle suffering and hurt in your life? Who is God for you in such places?
7. Talk about the future. What are your goals for yourself in spirituality? How are you going to move toward those goals?

Consider:

1. The importance of praying for and with your spiritual friend.
2. The use of a brief passage of Scripture as a means of centering your time together.
3. The toleration of silence if it includes a responsiveness to each other and the Spirit of God in your midst.
4. The possibility of brief "assignments" for study, reading or reflection before the next meeting.

Roberta Hestenes 10/86, see also *Using the Bible in Groups*, Westminster Press, 1983, pp. 102-106