

jan 6

this morning i got up a little early and wrote to a friend who the Lord has been prompting me about. to my shame, i had put it off for several weeks. when the Lord is prompting you about something, it probably mean it is something you should attend to. He does not do things without a reason. we should feel blessed that He is allowing us to be used for His purposes.

this walk in the spirit ... it is a new and strange thing to most of us. learning to pay attention to those gentle urgings that we used to cast off as random thoughts. those coincidences no longer are coincidences. but that is not where i feel the Lord is taking me this morning.

as the president's press secretary, jen psaki, would say, let me circle back to the topic of friends. (i guess those of you who don't watch much news won't relate to that.) anyway, let me continue about friends.

there are those that God brings to us for a specific purpose. i think of the woman who started the ministry i am now associated with. from the moment i first met her, i knew i wanted to be friends with her. was that my personal inclination or God's leading? she did become my friend. she became my mentor and i became her confidant. i believe she confided in me things she didn't with anyone else. i observed her operating in the spirit realm, doing things i did not yet understand. she helped me grow in the spirit. now she is gone, but we can never stop growing.

there are friends we had growing up. i often regret the ones not still in touch. i remember one friend where i got baptized while i attended her church. i can now see God's hand in that also.

i guess the point of what i am trying to say is: some people are brought across our paths to help us. others, perhaps because we are supposed to help them. God is there throughout our lives, even in the little things we think are random.

that's not even beginning to mention the friendships we form at work. some perhaps randomly passing through while others, are they there to influence us, or are we there to influence them. and how random is it really. did God get you started in a certain profession so you would meet certain people. yes, i believe He influences and guides us throughout our lives. at every turn, we have opportunities to say yes and continue, or to say no and rebel. although He may be weaving it all together, we still have free will.

and then we come to the ultimate friend. "a man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." prov 18:24 yes, we may have many close friends but Jesus is that ultimate friend. it must always be Him influencing us as we can never influence Him. He is that perfect love we all seek.

let us all embrace the friendship He offers. if we do, these words He has spoken will be to us. "no longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what

his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." john 15:15

cherish the friends you have. seek to influence the ones you can in a Godly way. be open to receive any Godly instructions they may offer. remember always. being that good friend means to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." gal 6:2 that enemy may also become your friend, if we let Christ shine through.

linda