

Series: Living with Integrity
True Friendship

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for life and growing our hearts as a mustard seed to heaven
Thank you for another day to preach to this flock
Guide us help us with our tribulations and trials to keep the devil and his kingdom out of our minds by letting God renew our minds daily.
Heal us from depression and sickness
Heal us from mental health and substance abuse issues
Save our children in communities to guide to meet the right people daily in and out of school to prevent the devil for taking our children minds
Save our children for thinking like the devil
Save our children like to be an enemy of people and do not know how to respect their elders
Save our minds and soul to prevent us for being a tax collector and living for mammon
Thank you for another year that this congregation has been around and we continue to help the homeless
I ask you to help us live obediently to your kingdom and apologize for any sins and abominations we caused or had in our life last year and going forward.
In Jesus name, Amen.

I want to tell you a true story about my life in this testimony in this sermon. I want to explain to you how I met friends from high school. I had people in high school that are my true friends in high school that I talk to today. I am an introvert when I meet new people and make friends with people. When I meet people for the first time, I do not consider them as a friend right away. My sister and I were raised to not let no one take advantage of us. When I meet people as an introvert, I have to open up to people and get to know them first hand, nothing more. That's why my mother told me and my sister that we were raised to be more independent and dependent on ourselves. Turn to the person next to you and say make a Godly decision on meeting new people. I do not count the people in high school to be my friends that always used to tease me many times because I spoke with a speech impediment. I say the only friends I had in elementary school were my friend Kenneth and DeAngelo Tolbert. I was mute and quiet person all through school because I got teased a lot during my childhood and friends had to stand up for me when I was not around. I wish to host a person from high school that is still a friend to me in high school named Jabaz Reeves that I can get in touch with. All I know is that he went into the military after high school and he got booed across the stage on high school graduation. I know how that is embarrassing and I was not booing him at our high school graduation in Chicago. When I came to Baltimore for the first time last month, I believe God led me to a group of people that I got to know really well before going to North Carolina for two weeks. As an introvert, I think those should be the people in Baltimore that live on the east side that I need to continue to talk to. I feel like I really got to know them. People that are introverts have to really get to know people when they do meet new people. I was thinking that I do need to start with a clean slate because the pastor at a church in concord, NC just prayed for me during a benediction in bible study service. When I meet new people going forward, I will start reading and memorizing Proverbs 27:6.

“Open rebuke is better. Then love is carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”-Proverbs 27:5-6

“There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.”-Proverbs 18:24

When I think about my friend Kenneth since elementary school, I think of him as a brother because I knew him for so many years. He knows my mother and family. He always used to stand up to me when people used to tease me in school or someone on the playground when others tried to gossip about me and just talk about me. I hate to see him get himself into trouble in his life and life ends up going downhill. I tried to help him out financially and economically in the past, but sometimes I had money to give him or sometimes I did not have money to give him. When I look back at this scripture, I think about why I am so introverted when I meet new people. I saw friend DeAngelo Tolbert from elementary school like more than a friend too, like a brother because we were tight as friends like that. I am not talking about in a gay kind of way. It is time that I start to evaluate my life and who I have true friendship with and find out where most of them live in the United States of America and go there to be closer to them to keep our close friendship with each other for many years. People in the past that tried to destroy me in the past and think that I know everything about me that I am no longer friends with that person or people no more. Honestly, I do not try to push up on people to cause them to make friends with me. Sometimes in situations I usually just go with flow, but I was thinking that I need to stop doing that today. When I do that in the past, it leads me to someplace where I do not want to be known as meeting with the wrong type of people. The doctors told me last time that I have one more time to end up hospitalized and in an acoma for a long period of time. The doctor said to family and friends when I was in an acoma that the next time that they consider me to be deceased and matter, we'll pull the plug on me in the hospital. I was in an acoma twice because I expected and people said they had to rush me to the hospital. It happened to me twice and I was in an acoma for six months trying to fight to wake up.