



Finding Home

Jesus' Invitation to a Transforming Friendship

"Make your home in me, and I will make my home in you."—Jesus

Spiritual Direction

Jesus invites us to live a life transfused and flowing with his life. This kind of intimacy is the basis for a transforming friendship, which is a new concept for some. How we understand the Christian life will determine how we live out our faith. An awareness of the framework that has shaped our faith experience can clarify how to move ahead. The chart below compares three general approaches to the Christian life.

	Cognitive Faith	Functional Faith	Relational Faith
Dynamics	Cognitive agreement with a Christian belief system	Personal commitment based on doing	Transfused with the life of Jesus flowing through us
Goal of faith	Identify as a "Christian" based on affinity with a belief system, affiliation with a church or organization.	Working hard to know God's commands, trying to become the kind of person we think he wants us to be and doing the work we think he wants us to do.	Living in response to Christ, allowing him to invite and draw us into a process of being conformed to his image for the sake of others.
Faith expressed as	Logic, reason, affiliation	Obedience	Love
Initial impetus	Analysis, affiliation	Crisis of belief, familiarity, social pressure	Encounter

Our 7-month journey is an adventure in "discipling the heart." Incredible possibilities are just ahead! We will explore some of the obstacles we face and how to get past them.

Exploring

As we transition to exploring obstacles to a transforming friendship, this is an excellent time to revisit our context: John 15:4-11. Write it out by hand, word-for-word. Use whatever version is familiar. What words, ideas, "senses" are you aware of? Resource: Use <https://www.biblegateway.com/> to compare different translations.

Question

Using the chart above, describe your spiritual journey and where you are today. Going forward, what do you most deeply desire in your relationship with Christ?