

**“FOCUSING ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS”**

**Forward In Faith Pt. 2**

Philippians 2:1-5

Friendship Ministry (The Stewardship of Relationships)

**I. RELATIONSHIPS ARE PART OF GOD’S PLAN FOR A FULFILLED LIFE**

1. Relationships open up a world of possibilities.
2. The failure to build relationships is costly.
3. God’s plan is for us to have good relationships.
4. Friendships will build the Kingdom.

**II. RELATIONSHIPS REQUIRE AN INVESTMENT OF TIME AND ENERGY**

1. You have to give to gain (Luke 6:31).
2. Having friends requires extending yourself (Luke 6:38).

**III. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING IS NOT EASY, BUT IT IS REWARDING .**

1. Be generous (Mark 12:29-31).
2. Be tolerant (Proverbs 17:1).
3. Be trustworthy (Proverbs 11:3).
4. Be considerate (Proverbs 25:17).
5. Be careful (Proverbs 22:24).



## ***FOCUSING ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS***

### ***Forward in Faith Part 2***

Sarah was an elderly widow. Struggling to maintain her small home, she was overwhelmed by the cost of its upkeep. The men's group at her church heard about her situation and decided to help. For three Saturdays, they met at her house and used their talents to repair the roof, paint, rebuild the front steps, fix the fence, and clean up the yard. By helping someone, these Christians demonstrated the compassion and love of the Lord in a real world way. Sarah was overwhelmed to discover people cared about her. On completing their tasks, the workers gathered around Sarah on the front porch for a time of prayer and the presentation of a love offering.

Compassion is a quality Jesus demonstrated frequently while on earth. He cared about people without being critical of them. He ministered to physical, spiritual, and emotional needs with love and concern. What an example He sets those who profess His name!

It's an understatement to say we live in a needy world. While the economies of nations vary, hurting people are everywhere. The sad part is too many people with plenty fail to share with those in need. The Bible teaches believers have a responsibility to share with the poor and needy in their communities just as Jesus would.

All needs aren't financial. Many suffer from emotional, spiritual, and physical pain as well. It's important for us to be sensitive to those who hurt. A word of encouragement, a hug, note, or a prayer often means more than a monetary gift. As someone said, "kindness will influence more than eloquence." Christians should make it a practice to ask the Lord to open our eyes to the needs of those around us, both in and out of the church.

Helping others helps us as well. Someone said, "There are 10 rules for getting rid of the blues. Go out and do something for someone else and repeat it nine times." Let's focus on others as we move *Forward in Faith*.

\_\_\_\_ Please tear off and hand to a pastor or usher or drop in the offering plate. \_\_\_\_

### **Forward In Faith - Commitment to Journey Card**

I commit to participating in the Hearing from God Journey.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I commit to pray for others, and I welcome another to pray for me, while we are on this journey together.

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_