

team devotion:

## quit complaining... don't you know who you are?

By Tony Guerrero

One of my favorite worship songs these days is "Friend of God," written by Israel Houghton and Michael Gungor (a former SongSeeker winner!). While the main focus of the song is the amazing realization that God, the Creator of the Universe, calls each of us His friend, the line that constantly sticks in my head is the opener: "Who am I that You are mindful of me?"

I ask that question of God almost every day. I can't even begin to figure out why God reached all the way down to the bottom of the barrel and chose me for this work. Some days I feel like, as the hymn "Depth of Mercy" proclaims, the 'chief of sinners'. And yet, He chose to entrust me with the awesome responsibility of this ministry. He chose me to serve Him as not only a servant to His people but even as a leader to some. If there were ever cause to question God's judgment – this must be it!

Still, He did, and I trust that He has His reasons and certainly far more wisdom than I can imagine. What overwhelming joy to be chosen by God! And yet, how often we lose sight of that joy! Let's face it – ministry is hard. It is fraught with logistical headaches, resource shortages, personnel clashes, politics and enough red tape to make Congress envious. And although we claim to believe that God is in control, how often do we find ourselves grumbling when things get tough, no matter His constant proof of provision and control through the years? (Remember the Israelites in the desert...sound like anyone you know?)

Fellow friends of God, let's daily refocus on the joy of being chosen for ministry. Forget the trials and dramas of the day; remember – God Himself has chosen you to serve in your ministry at this point in time. If you've ever told God honestly that you would go where He wants you to go and do what He wants you to do, and your biggest headache is that you have to replan this weekend's music, or that you have to deal with an obnoxious drummer conflict, remind yourself that God has given you fairly light duty in the Kingdom! Thank Him for the blessing that the problem of how to do ministry is your problem. No matter what your station in life, be it senior pastor, music director, custodian, secretary, or whatever; if you are a friend of God, you've got a great life and a greater future, regardless of the daily struggles!

The poet Maya Angelou wrote, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain." The way we, as Christians, can easily change our attitude is by simply reminding ourselves who we are. Who are you? You are God's chosen friend! You've got it good.

Psalm 8:4-5

*"What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor."*

2 Samuel 7:18

*"Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?"*

*Tony Guerrero is the Director of Creative Arts at Saddleback Church as well as an established jazz musician, songwriter and producer (including of the SongSeeker projects). Find out more at [www.tonyguerrero.com](http://www.tonyguerrero.com)*