

Proverbs 18:24, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

My prayer this morning is for more children of God to enjoy the comfort and peace in the knowledge of our friend Jesus Christ our Lord. So many children of God understand the importance of a friend but lack scriptural knowledge of how great a friend Jesus Christ is to His people. Every characteristic of a great friend is found in Jesus. Truly, He:

(1) Never forgets about His friends. I remember years ago a friend of mine and I had planned a fishing trip. When the morning arrived for us to leave, I learned he had forgotten about me and our planned trip. Jesus Christ will never forget His Children. He knows where they are and everything they face at all times. In Isaiah 49:15-16 we read, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

(2) Always listens to His children. How many times have you, dear reader, ever had a heavy heart without a person to talk to. Oh dear child of grace, it's so important to remember, when the world will not listen, Jesus Christ has time for you. In Jonah 2:2 we read, "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice." In Mark 10:49 we read where Jesus Christ, on His journey to Jerusalem to give His life on the Cross of Calvary, "stood still" for a crying, begging child of grace and by this recorded truth I believe He will always have time for me and you precious child of the King. Maybe that's why the hymn writer said; "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer ! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!"

(3) Is willing to lay down His life for us. In John 15:13 Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus Christ loved His friends (who by nature were His enemies, Rom 5:10) so much that He laid down His precious life for them. When you look at the love manifested at Calvary, how can you not understand His love for you dear friend of God?

(4) Loveth at all times. I know many of us have had some 'Fair Weather Friends', but Jesus Christ is an all weather friend. Through the valleys, through the wilderness, through the storms and everything else, Jesus Christ loves at all times. Even when Lot had lived such a disobedient life, according to 2 Peter 2:7-9, it didn't change Jesus Christ's love for him. In Romans 8:38-39 we read, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen !

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