

## “DO YOU KNOW MY FRIEND JESUS?”

from the writings of Pastor Salem...

Solomon tells us about his Friend who, “sticketh closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24). And do you know what, He is my friend too. I have known Him personally, intimately now for almost 90 years, if you can believe it. Let me tell you about my wonderful, loving Friend.

- ❖ **MY FRIEND LOVES ME.** Can you imagine it? He loves me so much He gave His life for me on a cruel, Roman cross. I have had a lot of friends, but none that loved me that much. There are a lot of things in the Bible that surprise me, but the one that surprises me the most, is that Jesus loves me! In spite of all my sin and waywardness, He loves me. He’s my friend! (John 3:16; Romans 5:10).
- ❖ **MY FRIEND IS FAITHFUL TO ME.** For over 88 years now He has never failed me a single time. Oh, sad to say, I have failed over and over but my wonderful Friend never fails me. I can always count on Him, lean on Him, depend on Him. Sometimes when I wonder if He hears my prayers, or if He knows how I hurt---well, I don’t wonder long because in my heart of hearts I know He is beside me, better yet, within me. What a faithful friend He is! (Hebrews 13:5).
- ❖ **MY FRIEND IS ALWAYS TRUE TO ME.** Many friends just tell me what I want to hear—but not my Friend, He tells me like it is. If there is something I want to do, and I know it is wrong—my Friend tells me right out, it is not pleasing to Him. And, you know something else, He keeps telling me that, keeps convicting me, until I change my way. He is honest and true to me. And something else, when I listen to Him, He quietly says, “well done”. (Acts 9:5; Matthew 25:23).
- ❖ **MY FRIEND IS EVER SO TENDER.** He cares for me and never gives me more than I can bear. Sometimes it seems I can hear Him whisper, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12). Oh, He allows me to have some burdens and trials and sorrows, but He never gives me too many! He knows me better than I know myself so He gives me only what I can bear. Tenderly He adjusts my load so it is just right. (Matthew 11:28-30).
- ❖ **MY FRIEND IS STRONG.** You know what? He is stronger than Satan! And Satan is strong, believe you me, but Satan is no match for my Friend Jesus! My Friend said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). Jesus is going to demonstrate that power when He casts Satan into the lake of fire and brimstone! (Revelation 20:10). Today it looks like the devil is in the saddle, but fear not, my Friend is going to have the last word! (Revelation 20:7-9).
- ❖ **MY FRIEND IS GENEROUS!** He gives me all that I need, and much, much more---more than I deserve! He shares with me ALL of His riches in glory, that is, the unsearchable riches in Christ reserved for us in heaven. (I Peter 1:4,5). Generous? I should say so. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19).

I wonder if you know this Friend of mine. Not know ABOUT Him, but know Him personally, experimentally. If not, just tell Him you are a sinner and ask Him to come into your heart and life---and He will. (Revelation 3:20).

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