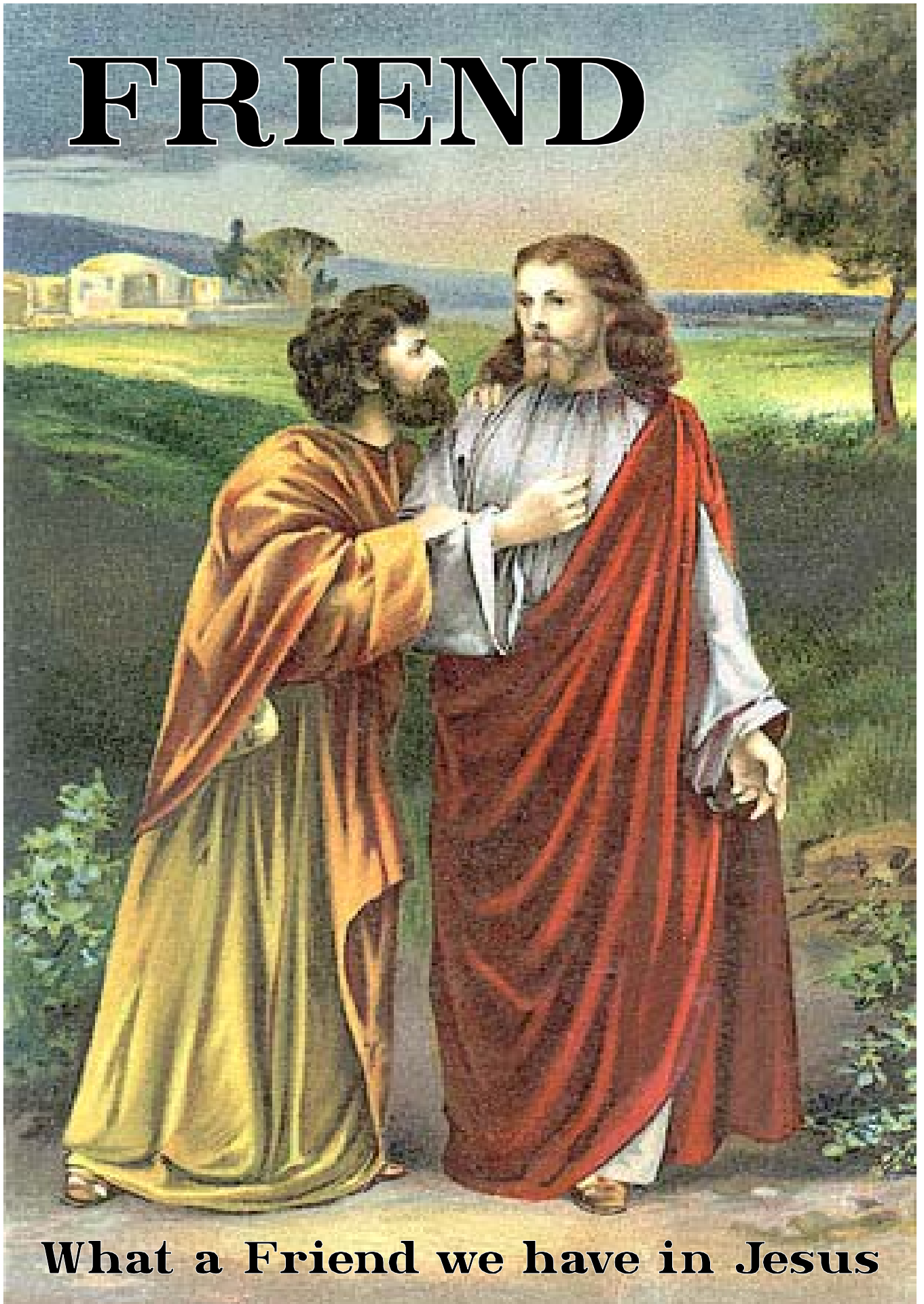


# FRIEND



**What a Friend we have in Jesus**

# ***FRIEND***

***A Study guide for Leaders in the Body of Christ***

***BY TIMOTHY II***

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# FRIEND

## INTRODUCTION:

Every human being has the need for a “Friend”. However, there are various questions that come into mind with fulfilling that need.

Some of these questions are: What makes a good “Friend”? What kind of “Friend” do you want? How do you find a “Friend”? What kind of “Friend” do you have now? What are the characteristics of a true Friend? Etc.

With these thoughts in mind, this Study Guide has been written to help guide you in the right direction by helping to explain the answers to these questions according to the Word of God.

God the Father is our first example of a “Friend”. Jesus, who is the second person of the Godhead became a man and is our example of what characteristics a ‘true’ “Friend” should have. There are also many other people represented in the Bible that are good examples of a “Friend”.

As we examine the Scriptures, please take the time to examine yourselves about what kind of a “Friend” you are, what kind of “Friends” you have, and how each of you measure up to those in the Bible.

As Christians, if you or your “Friends” meet the criteria of what a “Friend” should be as outlined in the Bible, it will confirm that you are heading in the right direction in your walk with the Lord.

If you or your “Friends” do not measure up to the examples set in the Bible, maybe you need to make some changes in order for you to avoid future problems in your Christian walk.

Before you consider breaking up with a “Friend”, always examine yourself first and see if it is you that falls short in your “Friendship”. Perhaps it is you that needs to ‘Repent’ and get your life right with the Lord, and not your “Friend”!

Maybe you are the type of person that doesn’t have a “Friend”. You too need to search the Scriptures and see what you can do to get a “Friend”.

Remember, **you** must be “Friendly” in order to make “Friends”.

No matter what your circumstances are, this Study Guide will help everyone including Christian Leaders to help gain a better understanding of what is a “Friend”!

This important information will help Leaders to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

May God Bless you as you read this Study and may the Holy Spirit open up your heart and mind in the Spirit of Understanding. A “Friend”!

## **I. WHAT IS A FRIEND?**

### **The Dictionary states that a Friend is:**

**Friend** 1. A person whom one knows, likes, and trusts. 2. A person whom one knows; an acquaintance. 3. A person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause; a comrade. 4. One who supports, sympathizes with, or patronizes a group, cause, or movement.

### **The Bible Teaches that a Friend is:**

#### **In Hebrew:**

**7453 rea`** (ray'-ah);  
or reya` (ray'-ah); from 7462; an associate (more or less close):  
KJV-- brother, companion, fellow, **friend**, husband, lover, **neighbour**, X (an-) other.

**7462 ra` ah** (raw-aw');  
a primitive root; to tend a flock; i.e. pasture it; intransitively, to graze (literally or figuratively); generally to rule; by extension, **to associate with (as a friend)**:  
KJV-- X break, companion, keep company with, devour, eat up, evil entreat, feed, **use as a friend**, **make friendship with**, herdsman, keep [sheep]-), pastor, + shearing house, shepherd, wander, waste.

**157 'ahab** (aw-hab');  
or 'ahab (aw-habe'); a primitive root; to have affection for (sexually or otherwise):  
KJV-- (be-) love (-d, -ly, -r), like, **friend**.

**4828 merea`** (may-ray'-ah);  
from 7462 in the sense of companionship; **a friend**:  
KJV-- companion, **friend**.

#### **In the Greek:**

**5384 philos** (fee'-los);  
properly, dear, i.e. **a friend**; actively, fond, i.e. **friendly** (still as a noun, an associate, **neighbor**, etc.):  
KJV-- **friend**.

**5373 philia** (fil-ee'-ah);  
from 5384; fondness:  
KJV-- **friendship**.

**4139 plesion** (play-see'-on);

neuter of a derivative of pelas (near); (adverbially) close by; as noun, **a neighbor**, i.e. fellow (as man, countryman, **Christian or friend**):

KJV-- near, **neighbour**.

\* Note: The word "Neighbor" is often used for the same word as "Friend" in the King James Version of the Bible. Therefore, the word "Friend" has been added in parenthesis behind the word "Neighbor" in the Scriptures that are represented in this Study Guide.

### **A Familiar "Friend" or Chief "Friend":**

#### **In Hebrew:**

**7965 shalom** (shaw-lome'); or shalom (shaw-lome'); from 7999; safe, i.e. (figuratively) well, happy, **friendly**; also (abstractly) welfare, i.e. health, prosperity, peace:

KJV-- X do, **familiar**, X fare, favour, + **friend**, X great, (good) health, (X perfect, such as be at) peace (-able, -ably), prosper (-ity, -ous), rest, safe (-ty), salute, welfare, (X all is, be) well, X wholly.

**3045 yada`** (yaw-dah'); a primitive root; to know (properly, to ascertain by seeing); used in a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially (including observation, care, recognition; and causatively, instruction, designation, punishment, etc.) [as follow]:

KJV-- acknowledge, **acquaintance** (-ted with), advise, answer, appoint, assuredly, be aware, [un-] awares, can [-not], certainly, comprehend, consider, X could they, cunning, declare, be diligent, (can, cause to) discern, discover, endued with, **familiar friend**, famous, feel, can have, be [ig-] norant, instruct, kinsfolk, kinsman, (cause to let, make) know, (come to give, have, take) knowledge, have [knowledge], (be, make, make to be, makeself) known, + be learned, + lie by man, mark, perceive, privy to, X prognosticator, regard, have respect, skilful, shew, can (man of) skill, be sure, of a surety, teach, (can) tell, understand, have [understanding], X will be, wist, wit, wot.

**441 'alluwph** (al-loof'); or (shortened) 'alluph (al-loof'); from 502; **familiar; a friend**, also gentle; hence, a bullock (as being tame; applied, although masculine, to a cow); and so, a chieftain (as notable, like neat cattle):

KJV-- captain, duke, (**chief**) **friend**, governor, guide, ox.

#### **In the Greek:**

**2398 idios** (id'-ee-os);

of uncertain affinity; pertaining to self, i.e. **one's own**; by implication, private or separate:

KJV-- X **his acquaintance**, when they were alone, apart, aside, due, **his (own, proper, several)**, home, (**her, our, thine, your**) **own** (business), private (-ly), proper, severally, **their (own)**.

## **II. WHAT IS A GOOD FRIEND?**

It is important in life to have a 'good' "Friend". A 'good' "Friend" is one that sticks closer than your own brother!

In order to have a 'good' "Friend", you need to be "Friendly".

### **Prov 18:24**

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

A 'good' "Friend" gives you good counsel.

### **Prov 27:9**

9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: **so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.**

## **III. WHAT IS A BEST FRIEND?**

Our 'Lovers' should be our 'best' "Friends", particularly our husbands and wives.

### **Song 5:16**

16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. **This is my beloved, and this is my friend,** O daughters of Jerusalem.

A 'best' "Friend" will 'Love' their "Friend" as themselves.

### **James 2:8**

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour** (Friend) **as thyself**, ye do well:

### **Rom 13:10**

10 **Love worketh no ill to his neighbour** (Friend): therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

## **IV. WHO IS THE GREATEST FRIEND?**

The 'greatest' "Friend" a person can have, is one that will lay down his/her life for you. During wartime, occasionally a soldier may jump on a grenade or step in the path of a bullet, all for a "Friend". This is very rare. However, Christ died for **all** of us before we even became His "Friend". He is the 'greatest' "Friend"!

### **Rom 5:6-8**

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

7 **For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.**

8 **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**John 15:13**

13 **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

Jesus remains our ‘greatest’ “Friend”, and makes intercession for us with God the Father.

**Rom 8:34**

34 **...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

## **V. WHAT SHOULD FRIENDS DO?**

The following Scriptures give some insight into what “Friends” should do.

“Friends” need to show pity (kindness, mercy) on their “Friends” that have been afflicted.

**Job 6:14**

14 **To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; ...**

“Friends” also need to restore their afflicted “Friend” Spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

**Job 42:11**

11 **Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance (familiar “Friends”) before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.**

“Friends” need to Love at **all** times (whether it is day or night, in season or out of season, convenient or inconvenient; whereas, our kindred or brothers are born as our adversaries or rivals.

**Prov 17:17**

17 **A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**

“Friends” need to be willing to rebuke their “Friends” when it becomes necessary.

**Prov 27:5-6**

5 **Open rebuke is better than secret love.**

6 **Faithful are the wounds of a friend;** but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Because:

**Prov 27:17**

17 **Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.**

“Friends” need to be pure of heart. Kings will even be “Friends” with those that are pure of heart.

**Prov 22:11**

11 **He that (who) loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.**

“Friends” should help each other and encourage each other.

**Isa 41:6**

6 **They helped every one his neighbour (Friend); and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.**

“Friends” should please one another to help build them up.

**Rom 15:2**

2 **Let every one of us please his neighbour (Friend) for his good to edification.**

As Christian “Friends”, we should visit and minister to our Christian “Friends” in need.

**Acts 24:23**

23 **And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance (“Friends”) to minister or come unto him.**

As Christian “Friends”, we should always speak the Truth one to another.

**Eph 4:25**

25 **Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour (Friend): for we are members one of another.**

David even treated his enemies as “Friends”! Do you?

**Ps 35:13-14**

13 **But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.**

14 **I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother:** I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

Jesus told us to ‘Love’ our enemies!

**Matt 5:44 Luke 6:27-28**



44 **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

## **VI. WHAT SHOULD FRIENDS NOT DO?**

The following Scriptures reveal what “Friends” should not do.

David was accused of hating his “Friends”, because he cried more for his son that was killed, than for the Victory of Israel, even though his son was a traitor. This means that the Bible suggests that even though we are to ‘Love’ our enemies, do not ‘Love’ your enemies more than your “Friends”.

### **2 Sam 19:6**

6 **In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends**

“Friends” should not bear false witness against their “Friends”, nor covet anything that belongs to them.

### **Deut 5:20-21**

20 **Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour** (Friend).

21 **Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's** (Friend's) **wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's** (Friend's) **house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's** (Friend's).

A “Friend” should not be a witness against his/her "Friend" without cause, and do not deceive him/her.

### **Prov 24:28**

28 **Be not a witness against thy neighbour** (Friend) **without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.**

“Friends” do not scorn their ‘Friends’.

### **Job 16:20**

20 **My friends scorn me:** but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.

“Friends” do not flatter their “Friends”.

### **Prov 29:5**

5 **A man that flattereth his neighbour** (Friend) **spreadeth a net for his feet.**

### **Job 17:5**

5 **He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.**

“Friends” do not forget their “Friends”.

**Job 19:14**

14 My kinsfolk have failed, and **my familiar friends have forgotten me**.  
 “Friends” do not stand aloof from their “Friends”.

**Ps 38:11**

11 **My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore**; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

A “Friend” does not devise evil against his/her “Friend”, as he/she is secure in that “Friendship”.

**Prov 3:29**

29 **Devise not evil against thy neighbour** (Friend), **seeing he dwelleth securely by thee**.

A “Friend” does not overstay his/her welcome in a “Friend’s” house lest they grow tired of you.

**Prov 25:17**

17 **Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's** (Friend’s) **house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee**.

“Friends” do not forsake their “Friends” or their Parent’s “Friends”.

**Prov 27:10**

10 **Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not**; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

“Friends” do not wound their “Friend” by speaking behind his/her back.

**Deut 27:24**

24 **Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour** (Friend) **secretly**. And all the people shall say, Amen.

“Friends” should not use a “Friend’s” service without paying him/her wages.

**Jer 22:13**

13 **Woe unto him** that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; **that useth his neighbour's** (Friend’s) **service without wages, and giveth him not for his work**;

“Friends” should not defraud or cheat a “Friend” whom they have hired. “Friends” also need to pay him/her on time for their work.

**Lev 19:13**

13 **Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour (Friend), neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.**

## **VII. FRIENDSHIP IN ACTION:**

The following story in Job gives us a description of “Friendship” in ‘Action’. This “Friendship” is between Job and his three “Friends”. It is an example of the ups and downs of “friendship”, and how “Friends” may act both good and bad in certain situations.

In this story, God allows Satan to try Job’s Faith, and Job is afflicted with the loss of property and family. Then Job is afflicted in his body with boils.

### **Job 2:7**

7 **So went Satan** forth from the presence of the LORD, **and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.**

Then Job’s wife gave up on him.

### **Job 2:9**

9 **Then said his wife** unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? **curse God, and die.**

Next Job’s “Friends” came to mourn and comfort him, which is the way we should treat our “Friends” in time of affliction.

### **Job 2:11-13**

11 **Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz** the Temanite, and **Bildad** the Shuhite, and **Zophar** the Naamathite: **for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.**

Then his “Friends” openly wept for him.

12 **And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.**

Then they comforted him by not saying a word. This is a reminder that “Friends” do not always have to have something to say in times of affliction. Just being there is comfort enough!

13 **So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.**

Later on, Job began to complain about his “Friends” and asked for pity from them. This shows that even the best of “Friendships” can become strained during times of struggles.

**Job 19:19**

19 **All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.**

**Job 19:21**

21 **Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.**

Job's "Friends" refused to answer him due to his pride.

**Job 32:1**

1 **So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.**

Job's "Friends" had condemned Job, because they wrongly thought his afflictions were a result of some Sin he had committed. That is why "friends" should not be quick to judge a "Friend" that is going through trials, no matter how much you think you understand God's reasons for allowing those trials.

Job got upset with his "Friends" because they had condemned him, yet they had no answer to his problems.

**Job 32:3**

3 **Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.**

God rebuked Job about his complaints.

**Job 40:1-2**

1 **Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,**

2 **Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.**

Then Job Repented.

**Job 42:6**

6 **Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.**

Then God rebuked his three "Friends, and they too Repented.

**Job 42:7**

7 **And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.**

**Job 42:9**

9 **So Eliphaz** the Temanite and **Bildad** the Shuhite and **Zophar** the Naamathite went, and **did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.**

Finally, Job prayed for his three “Friends” and God restored Job with twice as much as he had before. This indicates that God wants us to pray for our “Friends”, and that God is interested in our relationships with our “Friends”.

**Job 42:10**

10 **And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.**

**VIII. THE WRONG KIND OF FRIEND:**

Many of us end up with the wrong kind of “Friend”. The purpose of this section of the Study Guide, is to alert you to who are the wrong kind of “Friends”, and to avoid them! The first wrong kind of “Friends”, are those that would entice you to serve other gods. This is especially true in America today.

**Deut 13:6-8**

6 **If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;**

7 **Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;**

Do not listen to this wrong kind of “Friend”, do not give in to him/her, and do not pity or spare them, nor conceal (hide or protect) them.

8 **Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:**

The wrong kind of “Friend” speaks with guile (deceptively or falsely), or by lying to their “Friend” through flattering lips.

**Ps 12:2**

2 **They speak vanity every one with his neighbour (Friend): with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that will lift himself up against you in pride or who has magnified himself against you.

**Ps 41:9**

9 **Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that becomes “Friends” because of your money or because of your giving of gifts.

**Prov 14:20**

20 **The poor is hated even of his own neighbour (Friend): but the rich hath many friends.**

**Prov 19:4**

4 **Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour (Friend).**

**Prov 19:6**

6 **Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that will run from him when he/she is going through financial difficulties; much like the kindred that hate their brother because he is poor.

**Prov 19:7**

7 **All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him?** he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that keeps bringing up the past, especially our past transgressions. This is especially true in marriage!

**Prov 17:9**

9 **He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that is habitually angry or furious.

**Prov 22:24**

24 **Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:**

**Prov 16:29**

29 **A violent man enticeth his neighbour (Friend), and leadeth him into the way that is not good.**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that awakes you at dawn with a loud and insolent voice.

**Prov 27:14**

14 **He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.**

Beware of going into business with, or investing with, or lending to a “Friend”!!

**Ezek 22:12-13**

12 In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; **thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours (Friends) by extortion,** and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

13 **Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made,** and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee.

The wrong kind of “Friend” will get you drunk so that he/she may commit sexual perversion.

**Hab 2:15**

15 **Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour (Friend) drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!**

The wrong kind of “Friend” is one that will not help you in time of need because it is inconvenient, even if they eventually help you if you are persistent.

Although Jesus commends us for persistence, the need wasn’t met because of “Friendship”. You need to discern a “Friend’s” motive for helping you.

**Luke 11:5-8**

5 And he said unto them, **Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;**

6 **For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?**

7 **And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.**

8 **I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.**

**IX. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE TAKEN AWAY:**

The Lord may take away your “Friends”, but count it all joy, because He is doing it for your own good! Perhaps to receive new ones!

**Job 19:13**

13 **He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance (familiar “Friends”) are verily estranged from me.**

**Ps 31:11**

11 **I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance** (familiar “Friends”): **they that did see me without fled from me.**

**Ps 88:8**

8 **Thou hast put away mine acquaintance** (familiar “Friends) **far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them:** I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

**Ps 88:18**

18 **Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.**

## **X. CHEAP TALK:**

Beware of whisperers (slanderers or talebearers) that try to divide the very best of “Friends”.

**Prov 16:28**

28 A froward man soweth strife: and **a whisperer separateth chief friends.**

Don’t be afraid or worry about what others may say about you or your “Friends”.

**Matt 11:18-19 Luke 7:33-34**

18 **For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.**

19 **The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.** But wisdom is justified of her children.

## **XI. GOD IS OUR FRIEND:**

God always makes Himself available to us as our “Friend”.

In the following Scripture, the Lord spoke to Moses as a “Friend”.

**Exod 33:11**

11 **And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.**

God was also a “Friend” to Abraham.

**2 Chr 20:7**

7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of **Abraham thy friend for ever?**

**Isa 41:8**



8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of **Abraham my friend**.

**James 2:23**

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: **and he was called the Friend of God**.

**XII. JESUS THE SON IS OUR FRIEND:**

When we accept Jesus in our heart as our Lord and Savior, we become the “Friend” of Jesus.

God the Son Jesus was a “Friend” of Lazarus.

**John 11:11**

11 **These things said he**: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth**; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Even those that wounded Jesus were considered His “Friends”.

**Zech 13:6**

6 And one shall say unto him, **What are these wounds in thine hands?** Then he shall answer, **Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends**.

When we become the “Friend” of Jesus (the bridegroom), we will rejoice because we **will** hear His voice!

John the Baptist stated:

**John 3:26-29**

26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

27 John answered and said, **A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven**.

28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but **the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled**.

Jesus stated that we Christians are His “Friends”. However, if we want to remain the “Friend” of God, we must do whatsoever He commands us, and to bring forth fruit (Salvations), and to Love one another.

**John 15:14-17**

14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**.

15 **Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

17 **These things I command you, that ye love one another.**

### **XIII. A FRIEND OF THE WORLD:**

The Bible teaches that we cannot be a “Friend” of the world **and** a “Friend” of God!

#### **James 4:4**

4 **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

#### **I Jn 2:15-16**

15 **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

### **XIV: THE WORST KIND OF FRIEND:**

The worst kind of “Friend” is one that professes to be a Christian and then stabs his “Friend” in the back!

David stated:

#### **Ps 55:12-23**

12 **For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:**

13 **But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance (familiar “Friend”).**

14 **We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.**

15 **Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.**

16 **As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.**

17 **Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.**

18 **He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.**

19 God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because **they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.**

20 **He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.**

21 **The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.**

22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

23 **But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.**

## **XV. WARNINGS:**

There is a time coming when you will not be able to trust your “Friend”!

### **Micah 7:1-7**

1 **Woe is me!** for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

2 The good man is perished out of the earth: and **there is none upright among men:** they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

4 The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: **the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.**

5 **Trust ye not in a friend,** put ye not confidence in a guide: **keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.**

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; **a man's enemies are the men of his own house.**

The answer will be to:

7 **Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.**

There is coming a day when “Friends” will betray “Friends”!

### **Luke 21:16-18**

16 **And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.**

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

## **CONCLUSION:**

In Conclusion, even though we are to Love our “Friends” and enjoy our fellowship with them, God has asked us to do much more for others than we do for our “Friends”.

We are to invite the poor and needy to our homes because they cannot repay us like our “Friends” are able to do.

### **Luke 14:12-14**

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, **When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends**, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 **But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:**

14 **And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**

We are to seek the lost in our own neighborhoods and communities as well as on the Mission field and lead them to the Lord! Then we are to invite our “Friends” over to rejoice in their Salvation.

### **Luke 15:3-7**

3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

4 **What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?**

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 **And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.**

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

### **Luke 15:8-10**

8 **Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?**

9 **And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.**

10 **Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

Salutations to you all as one “Friend” to another!!

### **3 Jn 1:13-14**

13 **I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:**

14 **But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name. AMEN!**

TIMOTHY II

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The Holy Bible

Authorized (King James) Version

Produced By:

The National Bible Press - Philadelphia

Copyright 1944, National Publishing Company

Comments:

This text has been used as the source for all scriptures.

Some verses of scripture have been shortened or used in partial form.

This is to strengthen their importance to the subject matter; not to change their meaning nor meant to be taken out of the context in which they are written.

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Comments:

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