

My Dear Loved Ones:

Henry Brooks Adams said, "One friend in a life-time is much; two are many; three are hardly possible." Does that seem a little far fetched? Do we really have REAL friends?

What do you think about this definition of a friend? "A friend is a person who knows all about us, yet loves us just the same." If we were to exhibit ourselves, our real selves - thoughts, insecurities, prejudices - we'd probably lose a few friends, right? Some of us are very scared at being vulnerable before others.

What if we should be overtaken by temptation and sin? Would the people we call friends still stand beside us through disgrace?

Read these verses on The Best Friend that we could ever have.

- Psalm 55:22 - Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you.
- Proverbs 18:24 - A man who has friends must show himself to be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- Luke 7:34 - The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'
- Joh 15:15 - No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- Phil 4:6-7 - be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and mind through Christ Jesus.
- 1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon Him because He cares for you.

How many of our friends are dependent upon social position or financial status? What if our social position or finances change? Would our old friends remain the same?

Joseph Scriven was born in Ireland, but his fiancé drowned the night before his wedding. He moved to Canada and was one of the most selfless, and others-serving people you ever met. He really applied the Sermon on the Mount to his life. His mother was sick, and he wrote a poem entitled "A Friend Who Understands" as an encouragement to his mother, but before he mailed it out, he got ill, and a friend came over to visit Joseph in his sickness. The friend saw this poem, and asked Joseph about it. He replied, "The Lord and I wrote it together." We know the hymn today as "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

What are the problems of life mentioned in this hymn? Sins, griefs, sorrows, weaknesses, cares. What is the solution? Prayer. What is Jesus called? Friend, Shield, Peace, Refuge, and Solace. Stop and really think about the words of this hymn, and talk to God what you think about Him, and how you need Him in your grief, sorrow, weakness and cares. Praying for you today.