

God's Words of Life on FRIENDSHIP

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Exodus 33:11

He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

Proverbs 22:11

A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 12:26

A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 16:28

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9

Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

1 Samuel 20:17

Devotional Thought on FRIENDSHIP

One of the finest examples of male friendship is found in the historical record of 1 Samuel. Here we read about real male friendship, about a relationship that ran deep between Jonathan, the king's son, and David, a shepherd boy and God's future choice for the throne. Their friendship was strong, built solidly on an inward attachment rather than on an outer attraction or social status. These men demonstrated a mutual acceptance of each other despite their different social backgrounds. David's interests were more important to Jonathan than his own, and David felt the same way about Jonathan's interests.

If you study the friendship between David and Jonathan, you will walk away with a good understanding of what a healthy friendship between men can and should be. Any definition should include the following:

- Unconditional love
- Personal Enjoyment
- Mutual acceptance
- Mutual interests
- Mutual commitment
- Mutual loyalty

In short, friendship involves a concern for and involvement with the well-being of another.

David W. Smith

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A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

Jesus said, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

John 15:15

A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Job 6:14

My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God.

Job 16:20

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

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Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Proverbs 22:24-25

Wounds from a friend can be trusted.

Proverbs 27:6

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

John 15:13-14

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.

Proverbs 27:9

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:11-12