

Please Silence All Cell Phones



Worship in Song

How Majestic is your Name

Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth

Oh Lord we praise Your name Oh Lord we magnify Your name **Prince of Peace** Mighty God Oh Lord God Almighty



Majesty

Majesty worship His majesty Unto Jesus be all glory Honor and praise Majesty kingdom authority Flow from His throne Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high The name of Jesus Magnify come glorify Christ Jesus the King Majesty worship His majesty Jesus who died now glorified King of all kings

Majesty worship His majesty Unto Jesus be all glory Honor and praise Majesty kingdom authority Flow from His throne Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high The name of Jesus Magnify come glorify Christ Jesus the King Majesty worship His majesty Jesus who died now glorified King of all kings



I Will Celebrate

I will celebrate sing unto the Lord I will sing to Him a new song I will celebrate sing unto the Lord I will sing to Him a new song

I will praise Him For He has triumphed victoriously I will praise Him For He has triumphed victoriously

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Lord, I Lift Your Name Lord I lift Your name on high Lord I love to sing Your praises I'm so glad You're in my life I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth To show the way From the earth to the cross My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave From the grave to the sky Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I lift Your name on high Lord I love to sing Your praises I'm so glad You're in my life I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth To show the way From the earth to the cross My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave From the grave to the sky Lord I lift Your name on high



ANNOUNCEMENTS

and

GREETING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Matthew 9:12-13 "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



I am sure that all of you have seen a stethoscope. Who uses a stethoscope? That's right, a doctor. Have you ever been sick? Of course you have, we have all been sick at some time. When you were sick, did you go to the doctor's office, or did the doctor come to your house? You probably went to the doctor's office because that is the way it is done these days. You might be surprised to know that at one time it was quite normal for doctors to make "house calls." The doctor would carry a little black bag filled with medical supplies and go to the homes of those who were sick. That's a good picture of what Jesus did when he was on earth. He went where the people were -- especially people who were hurting or had problems in their life. One such person that Jesus ministered to was a tax collector by the name of Matthew. Tax collectors were hated in Jesus' day because they were often greedy and dishonest. Jesus changed Matthew's life and he became one of Jesus' disciples. One day Jesus went to Matthew's home to eat dinner with him. Many of Matthew's old friends came there to listen to Jesus teach. The religious leaders of the day were very displeased that Jesus was even talking to such people, much less eating with them! They asked his disciples, "Why does your master eat with these sinners?" Jesus heard them and answered, "It isn't those that are well that need a doctor, it is those that are sick. I did not come to call the righteous. I came to call sinners to repentance." Just like our doctors once did, Jesus went to the homes of the people who needed him and he touched them and made them whole. Who needs a doctor? The sick need a doctor. Is there anyone here who has never been sick? Of course not, so we all need a doctor! Who needs Jesus? Sinners do! Is there anyone here who has never sinned? No way! The Bible tells us that "All have sinned." That means we all need Jesus. We sometimes sit in our churches and wait for people to come to us so we can tell them about Jesus and his love. We should be doing what Jesus did. We should be going where the people are and taking the good news of Jesus to them.



WORSHIP THE LORD WITH TITHES & OFFERINGS

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom

all blessings flow:

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav' nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A-men



I've Found A Friend

I've found a Friend Oh such a Friend He loved me ere I knew Him He drew me with The cords of love And thus He bound me to Him

And round my heart Still closely twine Those ties which Naught can sever For I am His and He is mine Forever and forever

I've found a Friend Oh such a Friend He bled He died to save me And not alone The gift of life But His own self He gave me

The eternal glories gleam afar To nerve my faint endeavor So now to watch To work to war And then to rest forever

I've found a Friend Oh such a Friend So kind and true and tender So wise a Counselor and Guide So mighty a Defender

From Him who loves me Now so well What power my soul can sever Shall life or death Or earth or hell No I am His forever



Thank GOD, Its June



No, Not One There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one! None else could heal all our soul's diseases, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

No friend like Him is so high and holy, No, not one! No, not one! And yet no friend is so meek and lowly, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one! There's not an hour that He is not near us, No, not one! No, not one! No night so dark but His love can cheer us, No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!

Was ever a gift like the Savior given? No, not one! No, not one! Will He refuse us a home in Heaven? No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!



Celebrate The Lord's Supper

More Precious Than Silver

Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You

Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You



WORSHIP THE LORD IN HIS WORD

Living Wisely
In A Foolish World

Finding Fantastic Friends

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24;

Please open your Bibles and read along with me:



Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

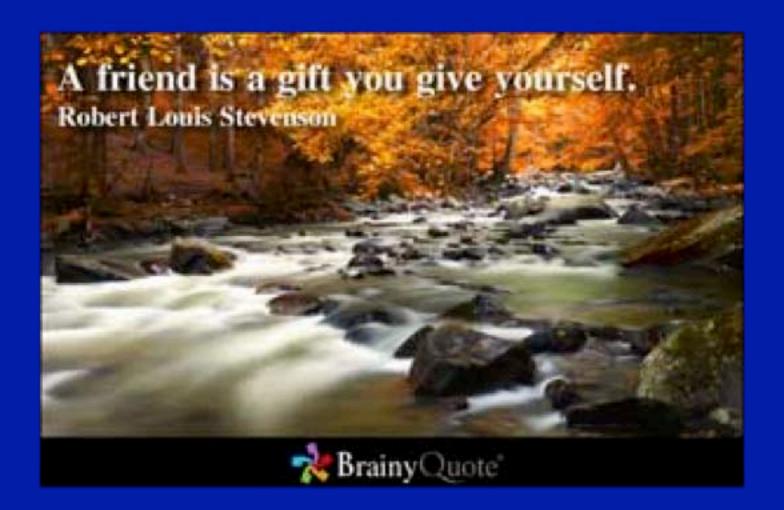
INTRODUCTION:

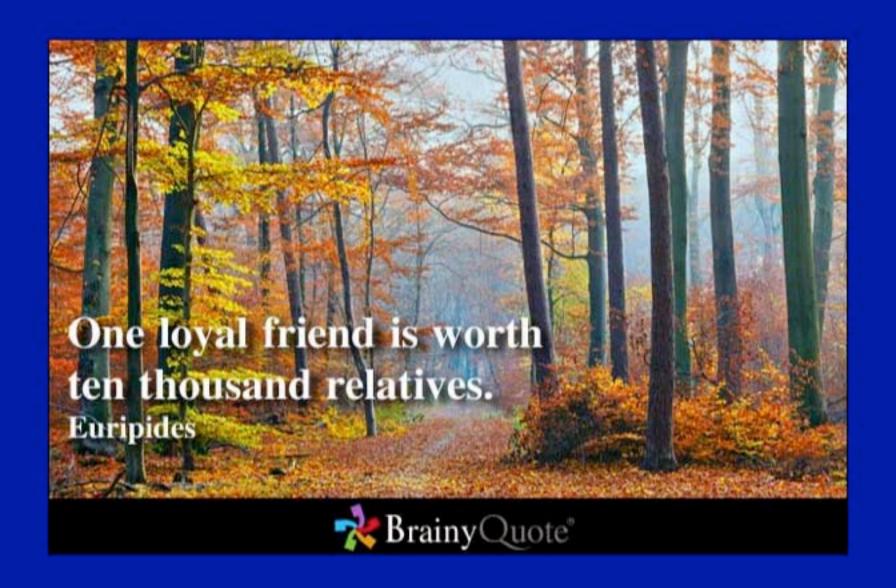
What is a friend?

Erma Bombeck said, "A friend doesn't go on a diet because you are fat."

Others have said, "A friend will go on liking you, no matter how successful either of you become,"







Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.

Helen Keller

And "A friend sees the best in you, even when you're not showing it."

One basic human fear we all have is that someday we will be alone and unloved.

We all need a few fantastic friends who know us "warts and all" and love us anyway.

Therefore, we need to know some basic things *Proverbs* teaches about finding fantastic friends, beginning with...

I. Don't choose foolish friends.

Few things in life will determine what kind of people we will become as the friends we choose.

Proverbs 13:20 "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

But, according to the Bible, who is a fool?

Jesus tells us about one kind of fool in the parable of a rich farmer whose fields produced so bountifully he had to build new barns to store his harvest.

Luke 12:19 "And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." (ESV)

However, according to Luke 12:20-21; God says to him!!!!

Luke 12:20-21 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

A fool is anyone who doesn't put God first in his or her life or says in their heart there is no God.

Psalm 14:1 "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good."

We are foolish if we choose friends whose number one priority is anything other than pleasing God.

The kind of person you or I will be a year from now will be determined more than anything else by the kind of friends we choose.

This is especially important for teenagers because of the enormous peer pressure they face.

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." (ESV)

We must be taught to choose our friends based on character—not appearance, popularity, or likeability.

Let me ask you a question, "Is it easier to go up or down?"

Lift your arms, and then let them down.

Which is easier, going up or down?

Down!

The same is true in relationships.

If you make friends with someone whose morals are lower than yours, what's most likely to happen?

Will you pull them up, or will they pull you down?

People can pull us down morally a lot easier than we can pull them up.

This is why we need to remember the principle found in...

Proverbs 12:26 "One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray." (ESV)

A truly *righteous* person will choose friends carefully, but *wicked* people don't care with whom they become friends because they have already gone astray.

To find fantastic friends, don't choose foolish friends.

Instead...

II. Choose fortifying friends.

This means to select friends who build us up.

Fortifying friends do at least two things for us.

A. They build us up morally.

The true test of a fantastic friendship is "Are you a better person because he or she is your friend?"

Proverbs 27:9 "Oil and perfume make the heart glad," (ESV)

Then, what does the rest of that verse tell us?

Proverbs 27:9 "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: <u>so</u> doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."

Roy Croft has written,

I love you, Not only for what You have made of yourself, **But for what** You are making of me.

You have done it
By being yourself.
Perhaps that is what
Being a friend means,
After all.

Fantastic friends make us better people because they build us up morally and...

B. They build us up emotionally.

A fantastic friend is a friend, period.

An English publication had a contest for the best definition of a friend.

Some of the best replies were "one who multiplies joys and divides grief's" and "one who understands our silence."

However, the winner was,

"A friend is someone who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

This is just another way of saying the truth found in...

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times,..." (ESV)

To find fantastic friends, don't choose foolish friends; instead, choose fortifying friends.

But specifically how do we do that?

To answer this question, we need to discuss...

III. How To Make Fantastic Friends -

God wants us to have fantastic, fortifying friends.

This requires doing at least five things:

A. Be cheerful.

This means smile a lot!

There is enormous power in a smile.

Smile right now!

I mean it!

It will make you and everyone around you feel better.

A smile is a great tool for making friends.

Proverbs 15:15 verifies this fact. Proverbs 15:15 "All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast." (ESV)

The state of the heart governs the outward condition: evil--sad, contrasted with the cheerfulness of a feast. JFB

This means a cheerful person enjoys life despite adverse circumstances.

Some people light up a room when they enter, while others light it up when they leave!

B. Be generous with praise.

This makes people feel appreciated and brings out the best in them.

The world is filled with negative, critical people who are always putting others down.

However, as Christians we are not to be like the world.

The most important time to praise a person is when they are down.

Proverbs 12:25 remind us of this.

Proverbs 12:25 "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad." (ESV)

Focus on people's talents, honesty, loyalty, abilities, accomplishments, etc.

Everybody wants to be appreciated, and if we make people feel appreciated by being generous with our praise, we will have fantastic friends.

C. Be modest.

This means "don't toot your own horn," and is one of the most important principles in making friends.

When we "toot our own horns," we give the impression we are insecure, arrogant braggarts.

That's why Proverbs 27:2 gives us this principle for making fantastic friends?

Proverbs 27:2 "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips." (ESV)

Some people brag by association, otherwise known as "name dropping."

They try to impress us with the famous people they know or successful people with whom they are associated in business, etc.

Everyone dislikes people who "toot their own horns."

Being modest means we talk about others rather than ourselves.

We do this by asking questions about their work, background, family, hobbies, etc.

When we ask people about themselves, they get to do the talking.

No one likes a chatterbox who does all the talking and tries to impress.

Just get people to talk about themselves and be a good listener, and they will think you are a brilliant, nice, secure person.

Talk about yourself, and they will think the opposite.

D. Be real.

This means be honest about your weaknesses, fears, and mistakes.

Drop your guard, and be transparent.

Paul had fantastic friends, as we can easily see by reading Romans 16.

One reason was his honesty about himself.

He didn't try to act like a "super" Christian who never wavered in his faith.

Notice what Paul writes in...

- 1 Corinthians 2:3 "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling."
- I'm going to tell you something that may shock you:
- Everyone already knows you're not perfect!

So, why pretend?

No one is great at everything.

People love it when we are honest about our own struggles in our Christian life and our difficulties in parenting and marriage.

E. Be faithful in Bible study.

There is no better place to find fantastic friends than a Bible study or in Church.

You get to know people in a small group much easier than in a large group, like a worship service.

Also, research has shown that if you don't get involved in a small group Bible study, you are likely to drop out of church within two years.

WHY????????

You didn't make any really good friends.

We all need fantastic Christian friends because of the fact found in...

Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (ESV)

Rubbing a piece of iron against another piece of iron sharpens it, providing you rub it the right way.

In the same way, a good Christian friend can help us "sharpen" our spiritual skills in Bible study, prayer, finding our spiritual gifts, etc.

Conclusion:

- To find fantastic friends...
- Be cheerful,
- Be generous with praise,
- Be modest,
- Be real,
- Be faithful in Bible study.

Remember that -

Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (ESV)

John 15:13-15 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (ESV)

Is Jesus your friend or are you His enemy?

Romans 5:8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, (enemies) Christ died for us." (ESV)

INVITATION



Worship in Song

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer

O what peace we often forfeit O what needless pain we bear All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations Is there trouble anywhere We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer



Lily of The Valley

I have found a friend in Jesus He's everything to me He's the fairest Of ten thousand to my soul

The Lily of the Valley In Him alone I see All I need to cleanse And make me fully whole

In sorrow He's my comfort In trouble He's my stay He tells me every care On Him to roll

He's the Lily of the Valley The Bright and Morning Star He's the fairest Of ten thousand to my soul

He all my grief has taken
And all my sorrows borne
In temptation He's my strong and
mighty tower

I have all for Him forsaken And all my idols torn From my heart And now He keeps me By His power

Tho all the world forsake me And Satan tempt me sore Thru Jesus I shall safely Reach the goal

He's the Lily of the Valley The Bright and Morning Star He's the fairest Of ten thousand to my soul

He will never never leave me Nor yet forsake me here While I live by faith And do His blessed will

A wall of fire about me I've nothing now to fear With His manna He my hungry soul shall fill

Then sweeping up to glory I'll see His blessed face Where rivers of delight Shall ever roll

He's the Lily of the Valley The Bright and Morning Star He's the fairest Of ten thousand to my soul

Benediction & Fellowship Meal