

JESUS – NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME "Jesus, the Believer's Friend"

Isa. 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

2 Chron. 20:7 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?

Jas. 2:23 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.

Prov. 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Have you ever considered that before the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, the first challenge for Adam was loneliness?

Gen. 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

<u>20</u> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Poll: Nearly 4 in 10 College Students Report Feelings of Loneliness

https://www.breitbart.com/health/2023/08/11/nearly-4-10-college-students-report-feelings-loneliness/

The Creator brought various animals unto Adam to call them by their names. Sending them in "pairs," the Creator also sent a message to Adam about being alone. The Creator's solution was to "...make him an help mate for him." (Gen. 2:18). Before the fall, the Creator's cure for Adam's loneliness was someone (Eve) to help, making her a "partner" on equal footing or one present with Adam for companionship.

One of the best companions a person can have is a friend. Such a friend that is available to everyone is the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider these characteristics of the Lord Jesus as a friend.

I. A FRIEND IS ONE BY CHOICE

Relatives are gained as family, but friends are gained by choice.

Jn. 15:16 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. ...

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

- 1 Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- Friendships are developed as people become acquainted with each other in such places as neighborhoods, schools, work, or areas of mutual hobbies, etc.

Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

II. A FRIEND IS ONE OF COMPATIBILITY

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Compatibility is defined as the natural ability to live or work together in harmony because of well-matched characteristics:

https://www.dictionary.com/browse/compatibility

Believers should build friendships with other believers of like doctrine.

III. A FRIEND IS ONE OF CONSISTENCY

Prov. 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Regardless of the situation, a true friend will stick by your side.

Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

Jas. 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

<u>8</u> A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

A friend loves at all times – the good times, bad times, and inconvenient times.

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

IV. A FRIEND IS ONE THAT IS A CONFIDANT

Prov. 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

An important attribute of a friend is one who is trustworthy in confidential matters.

Lev. 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

Prov. 18:8 The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (26:22)

Prov. 20:19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Prov. 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

An untrustworthy person cannot be counted on for confidentiality.

V. <u>A FRIEND IS ONE FOR COMPANIONSHIP</u>

Ex. 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

The Hebrew word for "friend" is synonymous with companion.

Original Word: רַעַ Transliteration: rea Phonetic

Spelling: (ray'-ah)

Definition: friend, companion, fellow

https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7453.htm

- A companion is what Adam needed when the Creator gave him Eve.
- The term "wife" is designated a "companion" in Mal. 2:14:

Mal. 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

In the New Testament, a "companion" is also defined as a "fellowlabourer." Phil. 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, [G4904] and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Phm. 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy *our* brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and **fellowlabourer**,[G4904]

1 Thess. 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our **fellowlabourer**[G4904] in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

As Eve was a "helper" or "partner," so were the "companions" of the Apostle Paul:

Phm. 1:17 If thou count me therefore a partner, [G2844] receive him as myself.

Heb. 10:33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became **companions**[G2844] of them that were so used.

Summary

<u>Deut. 7:6</u> For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

<u>7</u> The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- A friend is someone who knows you very well and still loves and accepts you as you are.
- A friend is someone that can be trusted even when others cannot.
- A friend is someone who is loyal to you regardless of any circumstances, especially questionable ones.
- A friend will sacrifice self to assist you in what you need.
- A friend will encourage you, correct you, agree and disagree with you, and still love you.
- A friend is always an empathetic and astute listener.
- A friend will always be there for you, even though contact has been dormant for years.

Conclusion

- Jhn 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
- 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.