



TOPIC: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS
TEXT: Proverbs 18:24

... and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

His name is **JESUS**, The Prince of Peace. He was born to give you peace (Isaiah 9:6). He also died to give you peace (Isaiah 53:5).

- Isaiah 9:6 –

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 53:5 –

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

He has proved his love and total commitment for you by dying on a cross.

- John 15:13 –

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

He rose to set you free. No other can give you peace and joy like Jesus. He'll keep you from the road to hell as you seek him. Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call upon His name while He is near ... (Isaiah 55:6 & 7).

Paul Scriven, the author of the famous hymn “What a friend we have in Jesus” had been engaged to a lady he loved deeply. But tragedy struck the night before their wedding when the boat she was in capsized and she drowned. In the hope of forgetting the shock which Joseph never did, he left his home in Ireland and went to Canada. There he taught at a school and served in other areas. He decided to live a simple life spending his money and strength in providing for the destitute. At times, he even gave away his own clothing. He was considered an eccentric by some; yet all he tried to do was simply to obey God’s word as best as he could understand it. In his loneliness, Joseph Scriven needed a steadfast friend. Having found that friend in Jesus Christ, he wrote these words which movingly express his personal life experience:

**What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything 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 every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

He found the friend that sticketh closer than a brother. We need to find this friend too. We need an intimate walk with Him. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 4:31; 31:6). Isaiah 49:15 & 16 declares **“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. (16) Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me”**.

Accept Him into your life and He will change you forever. He never fails. Only put your trust in Him and ye shall not be put to shame. 1 Peter 5:7 says **“casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”**.

I encourage you to put your trust in Him for we serve a God who never fails. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or even think (Ephesians 3:20). No matter your circumstance or situation, depend totally on Him. No situation is greater than the Most High God and no circumstance is mightier than the one who sits upon the throne in heaven and makes the earth His footstool (Isaiah 66:1). Psalm 62:8 declares **“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah”**. The psalmist says **“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”** (Psalm 23:25).

Proverbs 18:24 (Bible text)

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

