

FRIENDSHIPS

By John F. Hall

One of the enjoyable things about life can be found in the friends that we make in our journey in this life. Abigail O'Neill, of Penn State, gave her interpretation of the four levels of friendships. The first level is Acquaintance. The second level is Casual Friendship. The third level is Close Friendship. The fourth level is Intimate Friendship. She said that every friendship in our lives has started as an acquaintance. It might be like friends of friends or someone you may know but not truly know. She said that it takes effort and a strong connection to move to the next level, which is casual friendship. This may consist of former classmates, co-workers, fraternal, social, or church members. These people have a shared interest with us. The third level is close friendship. They know a lot about you and you feel comfortable sharing with them about your life. I have been sharing my nonfiction life stories for a very long time. "The fourth level is intimate friendship, which are your best friends or chosen family. She said they come into your life because they care about you as a person and do not seek out your relationship for their own personal gain. Archie Paul Jordan wrote the song, "What a Difference You've Made in My Life." Friendships make a big difference in our lives.

In Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 20, are these words: "Walk with wise men and you will become wise, but the companion of fools will fare badly." Your friendships speak loudly-both to God and to others around you-about the condition of your heart. I like to quote the thoughts of others when I write my stories. Their words become the seasoning in my themes. Walter Winchell said: "A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out." Ed Cunningham said: "Friends are those rare people who ask how we are and then Wait to hear the answer." Marlene Dietrich said: "It's the friends you can call up at 4a.m. that matter." Arnold H. Glasgow said: "A true friend never gets in your way unless you are going down." Dr. Seuss said: "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world." Lois Wyse said: "A good friend is a connection to life-a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world." Tom McNeil said: "Distance means so little, when someone means so much." Thomas Fuller said: "If you have one true friend you have more than your share." He added: "But one true friend is better than a room full of superficial ones." Lucius Seneca said: "One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood." Bill Watterson said: "Things are never quite as scary when you got a best friend." Albert Schweitzer said: "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It burst into flames by an encounter by another human being."

Albert Schweitzer also said: "We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit." A.A. Milne said: "If there ever comes a day when we can't be there together, keep me in your heart. I'll stay there forever." Woodrow Wilson said: "Friendship is the only cement that will hold the world together." Jesse Owen said: "Awards become corroded. Friends gather no dust." Gina Barreca said: "It's not that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but it's your best friends who are your diamonds." From an Irish Proverb: "A good friend is like a four-leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have." Mark Twain said: "Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is

ideal life.” John Evelyn said: “Friendship is the golden thread that ties the heart of all the world.” George Herbert said: “The best mirror is an old friend.” H. Jackson Brown Jr. said: “Remember that life’s most valuable antiques are dear old friends.” Henry Ford said: “There are three things that grow more precious with age: old wood to burn, old books to read, and old friends to enjoy.” Aristotle said: “A friend is someone with whom you dare to be yourself.” Charles Swindoll said: “Let’s face it, friends make life a lot more fun.” Herodotus said: “Of all of our possessions a friend is the most precious.” Jean de la Fontaine said: “Rare as in true love, true friendship is rarer.” Baltasar Gracian said: “Friendship multiplies the good of life and divides the evil.” Misty Copeland said: “Anything is possible when you have the right people to support you.” Mandy Hale said: “Two things you don’t have to chase: true friends and true love.” S.E. Hinton said: “If you have two friends in your lifetime, you’re lucky. If you have one good friend, you’re more than lucky. Ralph Waldo Emerson said: “The only way to have a friend is to be one.” Donna Roberts said: “A friend knows the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails.” Maya Angelou said: “A friend may be waiting behind a stranger’s face.” Tennessee Williams said: “Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends that we choose.” Marcel Proust said: “Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the gardeners who make our souls blossom.” Octavia Butler said: “Sometimes being a friend means mastering the art of timing. There is a time for silence. A time to let go and allow people to hurl themselves into their own destiny. And a time to pick up the pieces when it’s all over.”

Charles Converse and Joseph Scriven wrote the hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” These are their lyrics: “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear. Oh what peace we often forfeit. Oh what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble everywhere? 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 to our Lord in prayer.”

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