

Building Great Friendships

Proverbs 18:24

“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Proverbs 12:26

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

N.T. meaning of friend –

- one who influences
- “to flow in”

Biblical Examples:

- David & Jonathan -I Sam. 18:1
- Jesus & Lazarus -John 11:11
- Paul & Philemon -Philemon 1:1

Value of Friendship

1. Provides safety & strength
 - “Two are better than one...if one falls down, his friend can help him up.” -Eccles. 4:9,10
2. Provides honest advice
 - “wounds from a friend can be trusted.” -Proverbs 27:6
3. Provides accountability
 - “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” -Proverbs 27:17
4. Provides care & concern
 - “A friend loves at all times...” -Proverbs 17:17

Jesus - Friend forever

“you are My friends...I have called you friends.” -John 15:14,15

Abraham

“a friend of God” -James 2:23