

*“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; **That We Might Know The Things That Are Freely Given To Us Of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:12 KJV*

Friendship is a gift; freely given, because of the character of the giver. It manifests itself in many ways, but it is, nonetheless, a singular gift. It is minds that find kindred spirit with one another: Minds which have the same thoughts, standards, methods, and goals. Soulmates have this connection; where little verbal communication is necessary, but conversations transcend the passage of time. Friendship is intimacy born of likemindedness and trust, which once found, is never forgotten nor forsaken. Friends forgive friends, because to not forgive is a bitter loss! Friends don't command friends; they state desires, and true friends will seek the other's benefit. Jesus said, *“If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My Disciples. As the Father hath Loved Me, so have I Loved you: continue ye in My Love. If ye keep My Commandments, ye shall abide in My Love; even as I have kept my Father's Commandments, and abide in His Love. These things have I spoken unto you, that My Joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is My Commandment, That ye love one another, as I have Loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. YE ARE MY FRIENDS, if ye do whatsoever I Command you.”* God commands our obedience out of His great Love for us! He sees what we do not, and tells us what to do that our feet not slip and hurl us into Everlasting torment. He gave His Life to provide our deliverance before the world began! He knew then, the hearts that would love Him. *“And WE KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose. For whom HE DID FOREKNOW, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also Justified: and whom He Justified, them He also Glorified.”* What is more perfect than Jesus? Whatever He does is perfect! *“And I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well!”* For us to make something perfect, we must remove its flaws. The potter conforms the lump of unsightly clay into a worthy vessel; He finds the clay; fixes the clay; forms the clay; fires the clay; and finishes the clay. *(Did I get that right, Tom?)* There is a process by which the clay is conformed to perfection; from the mire of the river bank to the majesty of the royal table! One Day all believers by Grace through faith will grace the Royal Banquet Table of His Grace, the Lord Jesus to commence the Day of Eternal Companionship with God, Himself! God wants to make you eternally perfect; like Himself; *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but WE KNOW that, when He shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see Him as He is.”* God has perfect immortality planned for all His Friends!



The Spirit's Voice reminds us oft,
We're not alone when tempest tossed,
For with us walks our dearest Friend,
Beside us to the very end! –CGP

I'm oft reminded of the Truth of this chorus we used to sing: *“My Lord knows the way through the wilderness; all I have to do is follow.” “The Lord is my Shepherd. ‘My Sheep know My Voice and they follow Me.’* If I but obey, I'll know the Way, and find Eternal Day! *“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”* Are you God's Friend?

“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.” John 15:15 KJV