

Friends: One There Is Above All Others

Elder Jeff Winfrey, Pastor
Dawson Springs Primitive Baptist Church
101 East Walnut Street
Dawson Springs, KY 42408
www.dspbc.com

Pro 18:24 ...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

I. To be a friend of God

A. Abraham—Moses—Lazarus

Jas 2:23 ...Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Exo 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...

Joh 11:11 ...Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

B. Jesus, the friend of sinners

Luk 7:34 ...a friend of publicans and sinners!

C. Jesus was killed by His friends

Zec 13:6 And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.

D. Jesus laid down His life for His friends

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

E. Jesus: A real friend

Pro 18:24 ...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

II. Jonathan and David: Two men on a collision course—most unlikely to be friends

A. Jonathan: Natural heir to the throne—A friend to one and all

1Sa 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

1Sa 14:7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

1Sa 14:13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.

1Sa 14:45 And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: *as* the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

B. David: God's heir to the throne—A friend to all

1Sa 17:25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

1Sa 17:51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

1Sa 18:5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

C. Jonathan and David: Friends to the end

1Sa 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

1Sa 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1Sa 18:4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

1Sa 20:41 ...David...fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

1Sa 23:16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

1Sa 23:17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

1Sa 23:18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

2Sa 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

Pro 18:24 ...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

III. Thoughts from Solomon on friends and friendship

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

Pro 18:24 ...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

Pro 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

IV. A New Testament church is a league of friends

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love...

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Act 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

Act 4:35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Act 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,

Act 4:37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

Joh 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

V. At the time when I need Him most—I forsook my best friend

A. Prayers for healing are to be accompanied by confession of faults

Jas 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

B. A confession of my faults

1. My preoccupations of the past month

12/22/2015 Notified that CT scan had verified a mass in right lung on my mother
12/30/2015 Consult appointment with thoracic surgeon
12/31/2015 Consult appointment with lung surgeon and family physician
01/04/2016 PET scan—and surgery pre-op
01/05/2016 Bronchoscopy lung biopsy—surgery under general anesthesia
01/07/2016 Consult: Told that mass was Stage III-B non-small cell lung cancer
01/07/2016 Consult with cancer center navigator
01/12/2016 Appointment with chemotherapy oncologist
01/13/2016 Appointment with radiation therapy oncologist
01/15/2016 Appointment cancelled—waiting for insurance pre-authorization
01/18/2016 Consult with general surgeon for port placement—and surgery pre-op
01/19/2016 Appointment to receive markings prior to radiation
01/19/2016 Port placement—surgery under general anesthesia
01/19/2016 Snowfall through night
01/20/2016 Six hour appointment for first chemotherapy

2. My Wednesday afternoon after leaving 6 hour chemo treatment (01/20/2016)

Around 2:00 pm I called Christy to ask her to call off church due to weather

She told me parking lot and sidewalk had been cleared (Mike Russell)
To my shame I was disappointed (my good excuse not to have church was gone)
I got Mom settled in—returned borrowed vehicle—got Jenny home from work
I returned home and asked Christy to call people and call off church
Kenneth called needing food—went to grocery—took food to Kenneth
I ate supper—sat down in recliner—looked at clock—it was 6:30—I was exhausted
Phone rang at 7:58—I had slept through normal time for church—without even a prayer
Christy handed me the editorial from the Progress about Mom
I read it—I cried—I wept—I prayed—I sat and thought about the last few days
I considered how much time I had spent seeking help in the world's wisdom—
And how I had slept through my normal time to seek God—I prayed for forgiveness

3. Explanations and disclaimers

It was not necessarily wrong to call off church
—Yet my heart was wrong to be glad to call off church

It is not wrong to seek the help of physicians and earthly medicines

Isa 38:21 For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay *it* for a plaister upon the boil, and he shall recover.

—It is wrong to be so preoccupied with physicians that you are too weary to worship

It is indeed foolish to overly focus on physicians who admit that they cannot heal
—While forsaking the God who can

God's healing is not based on my performance—but is based on His grace and mercy

VI. Looking to the world as opposed to looking to God

A. Never seek the world's help at the expense of seeking God's help

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isa 30:2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

Isa 30:3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt *your* confusion.

B. The story of a man called Asa

2Ch 14:9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots...

2Ch 14:11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is* nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee.

2Ch 14:12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa...

2Ch 15:1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2Ch 15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

2Ch 15:3 Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

2Ch 15:4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

2Ch 15:12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

2Ch 15:19 And there was no *more* war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

2Ch 16:1 In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah...

2Ch 16:2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria...

2Ch 16:7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.

2Ch 16:8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2Ch 16:10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house...

2Ch 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

2Ch 16:13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.

VII. May this sickness bring us to Jesus

Mat 9:12 But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

Mar 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

Mar 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

Mar 5:27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

Isa 38:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Isa 38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

Isa 38:3 And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Isa 38:4 Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying,

Isa 38:5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Jas 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.