

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

July 27, 2015

The Importance of Friendships

PROVERBS 17:17 NKJV – (17) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

PROVERBS 18:24 NKJV – (24) A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

PROVERBS 27:6 NKJV – (6) Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

In this meditation, I would like to spend some time talking about "Friendships." The Lord did not create us to live in isolation but in relationship with one another. As Christians, our foremost friendship is with Jesus Christ. He loves us as no one else and will never forget or forsake us. Furthermore, when we walk closely with Him, we become the kind of companions others need and want.

God designed us to need each other. The book of Proverbs provides generous counsel to help us select the right kind of companions. Genuine friendships are characterized by love, loyalty and honesty. They not only support us, but they also have permission to advise and even correct us when necessary.

It is very important to make sure those closest to us are heading in the same direction. Although Christians often have relationships with unbelievers, we must realize that the unbeliever is headed in the opposite direction spiritually. That is why our dearest, most significant friendships must be with fellow believers who share the same love for the Savior. Godly companions are essential - they encourage us to walk obediently with Christ and stimulate us to become more like Him in our character, conduct and conversation.

Never take a relationship for granted. All genuine friendships must be built and nurtured by the word of God.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOB 29:4-6

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.