

HOW DO WE KNOW THE FRIEND?

of the lives of the people God had chosen was running contrary to the desires of God, or when they saw clearly His purposes and plans for the future, and wanted to proclaim them for the comfort and inspiration of their fellow-men, they were called seers or prophets. When they mediated God to the people through the visible signs and symbols of their faith, they were called His priests. But psalmist and prophet and priest all had the same experience, the deep, sweet joy of friendship with God, and to them He whispered the secret things hidden from all grosser souls.

Their utterances became the literature of the Church of God, not because it was without human failings and limitations, but because the earnest soul recognized in it the utterances of souls so deep in the confidence of God that they had a right to speak for Him, just as the sacred intimacy we have with our friends gives us a right to speak for them. Further, it realized that it, too, might have the same blessed experience, by putting itself into living relations with the God who breathed His purposes through psalmist and prophet and priest who gave themselves up to friendship with Him. The Spirit of God