

HOW DO WE KNOW THE FRIEND?

be in order to retain His friendship. At last, when the time was ripe, He chose a people with whose history He identified Himself, and in His guidance of them through the desert, up to the Promised Land and into the portions set apart for them, He was slowly teaching them His nature. Every victory they won following His directions taught them of His power. When they suffered defeat because of sin among them, they learned of his abhorrence of evil. As He blessed their legitimate efforts, in accordance with His will, to be pure and true, they learned of His love for holiness. So through all their history. They were making acquaintance with Him as a people. He was showing them His character, seeking to win them to friendship with Him in return.

In those early days they did not understand fully what their own lives meant, the unit of life was not the individual, but the nation, and so God had to reveal Himself to them, not as the friend of each individual, but as the friend of the nation, and only through the nation to the individual. Yet there were certain men even in those early days who were specially gifted of God with the power of entering into fellowship with Him, just