

[SELECTED.]

Do You Want a Friend?

This is my Friend—*Song of Solomon* v. 16.



FRIEND?" "It depends on what sort of a person you will offer me." Now, I have a Friend, a very precious and trustworthy Friend, and because I know well He is longing to be your Friend too, I have just asked you to let me talk to you a little about Him. My Friend is the Lord Jesus Christ. I did not love Him first, or find out how good He was all at once; but He always loved me, and wanted me to love him in return. I want to spell the word "Friend" to you, and with each letter I will tell you something of what I have found out Jesus to be.

It will help you to remember better what Jesus is, to connect some thought about Him with each letter of the word FRIEND.

What may F stand for? Can you guess? *Faithful.* A faithful friend is Jesus. Faithful to us in our sins, faithful to us in our sorrows, faithful to us in our unfaithfulness. Other people may forsake us; they may find out our faults and become disappointed in us, but is it not good to know, that Jesus knows all about us from the very beginning, and loves us in spite of everything?

R is the next letter. Jesus is then a *Real* Friend. There is no deceit about His love for us. Jesus shows that His love is *real*, because He has done and, still does, so much for us. You know how He did for you long ago, you know how He does everything for you day and night; you can see how *real* a Friend He is, if you will only take the trouble to think about it.

I is the next letter—*Interceding.* What a good kind of friend that is! A man requires in some unexpected emergency powerful influence to obtain some much-needed boon. His future depends upon it. He has no right to claim it. It must be bestowed as a matter of pure favour. People wonder to see him. "Why," they say, "how is it you take it so easily?" "Ah!" says he, "I'm not afraid; I have a powerful friend. He has influence in the right quarter. I shall get what I want. He is going to use it for me."

Everlasting is our word for the letter E. Once a friend always a friend, is some people's motto. It is so with Jesus. If once you throw your helpless soul upon Him for time and for eternity, He will never—no, never—forsake you. N stands for *near*. Yes; He is very near, always

near. "Lo, I am with you *always*." You cannot always have your earthly friends with you. *Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.* Your heavenly Friend will be with you at school, at service, at work, at home, everywhere and anywhere, in readiness to help and bless you.

What is our last letter? It is D; and D stands for *dear*. A *dear* Friend! You learn to love Jesus, although you never saw Him. "Whom having *not seen*, ye love" And if He is your Friend here he will be dearer yet, when one day you will know Him as you are known, and love Him with a perfect, unchanging, unwavering heart. *Is He your Friend?* That is what I want you to tell me. You cannot do better than accept the Lord Jesus as your FAITHFUL, REAL, INTERCEDING, EVERLASTING, NEAR, and DEAR FRIEND, even while I am talking to you.

The False Face.



EVERY child knows what a "false face" is, and also the effect produced by wearing a false face. The face of a child may naturally be pleasant and attractive, but the beauty may be covered by a hideous looking false face. On the other hand, he may lack what is known as beauty, but the defects are not seen

if he wears a handsome "false face." But the wearing of such a covering does not make him either handsome or ugly. It is only a "false face." Now look at our picture. What a hideous looking skeleton appears behind a beautiful "false face." What does it mean? Children, you have read in God's Word about "Sin." Now, sin is never presented to you by Satan in its true form. It is always covered with a false face.

Satan presents disobedience to parents as "being independent." He covers up smoking and drinking as being "manly." He covers up the theatre and ball room with the false face of "pleasure."

We might multiply illustrations, but space will not admit. Children, don't be deceived by these false faces. The way to avoid being deceived is to see what God's Word says about these things. Let the light of that *lamp* shine upon the temptation, and it will shew you the falsehood and deceit. It will reveal the bony fingers which hold the false face. May God help you to look at this subject in the right light.

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