

FRIENDSHIP THE CORE OF RELIGION

holiness, that God is willing to admit us to friendship with Himself, to walk with us, talk with us, live with us, to penetrate the very innermost recesses of our being, and to link His own honor and glory with our lives. O what a privilege! Is it not enough to thrill us with a joy unspeakable, to make all life divine, to make all service sweet with the consciousness of His presence who works His mighty purposes through us?

Hear Him as He speaks to us, "My son, give me thine heart." What does it mean? What but this: "O man, made in mine image, O man with capabilities like mine own, I want thy friendship—yea, the dearest desire of my heart is to win that friendship. See what I have done to win it. The heavens declare my glory. The firmament shows my handiwork, and all these things are yours. More wonderful than aught else in the world is the body in which your spirit dwells. I made that for you. Read the life of Christ, see His wonderful patience and love and kindness, see Him in Gethsemane and on Calvary. That was I, your God, and I did it all for love of you. What more can I do than I have done? I come to you now, seeking your friendship, pointing out to you