

HOW DO WE KNOW THE FRIEND?

extent which makes an exact harmony of the four impossible. Yet the gospels speak to us with an authority and a spiritual power possessed by no other part of the Bible, because we recognize through them all the one character, the character and the life of the Friend of man, Christ Jesus, pictured for us by those who had the insight of friendship.

It was only after His death, however, that the fullest possibility of friendship with God was realized. Jesus said to His disciples: "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you." The Comforter is the spiritual presence of God as He was revealed in Christ, and when He came in all His fulness Pentecost dawned on the world and men rejoiced in the fulness of the new thought that wherever they were, there God was, dwelling in them and acting through them. Paul and Peter and James and John, thrilled by the vision and possessed by the living presence of Christ, entered so fully into His mind that we recognize in what they wrote not their own mind and will, but the mind and will of