

A Wonderful Friend

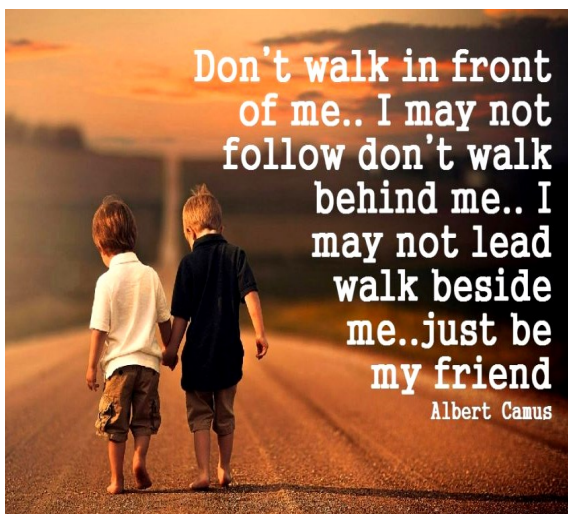
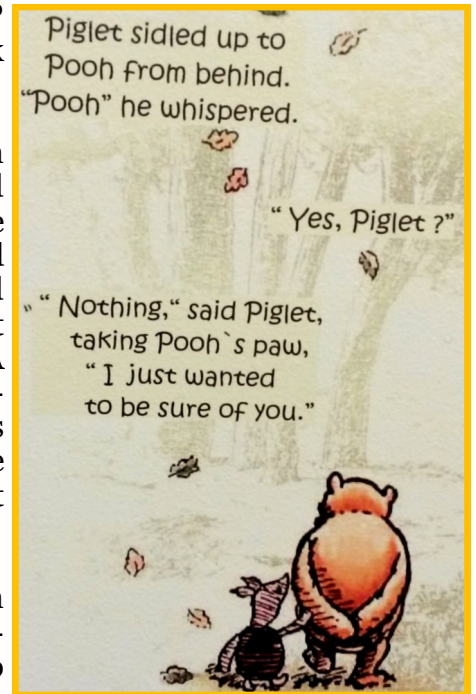
“But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” Acts 9:27

Do you have a friend who will listen to your problems and stand with you in the midst of the good times and the bad times? Are you the kind of friend to some one that needs someone to talk with.

There is a man mentioned in the Bible that actually took a person with a terrible reputation for abuse and murder and introduced him to his friends and told them they should trust him that he was a changed man. This man was Barnabas. Many of us would like a friend like Barnabas. He was kind; a man of his word; and he dared to stand up for someone when others didn't want to get involved. Barnabas was known as “son of encouragement.” A true friend is a wonderful blessing, one who can advise or just listen. I read a quote once that said a friend is one who thinks you're a good egg, even through he also knows you are a little cracked. Barnabas accepted Paul as the man he was and didn't judge him by his past.

We know a lot about Barnabas from just one incident. When Saul, later to be renamed Paul, was blinded on the road to Damascus, it was Barnabas that took this man who had hurt so many people and took care of him because he believed that he had been converted. Saul was not well liked; the disciples knew well that he had been involved in the stoning of Stephen. Barnabas had faith, stood up to the crowd, and told them that Paul was a new person who could be trusted. He saw a new man and told the disciples he believed Paul's conversion and trusted him to be a leader.

Barnabas traveled with Paul on many of his journeys and encouraged not only Paul but others that he met. Barnabas helped many people and was their friend. We don't hear a lot about him, but he was the encouragement the people needed. We all need this type of encouragement. We all need someone who will be there for us and try to help us.



We can look to Barnabas as an example of a good friend., the kind of friend we want and the kind of friend we can be to others.

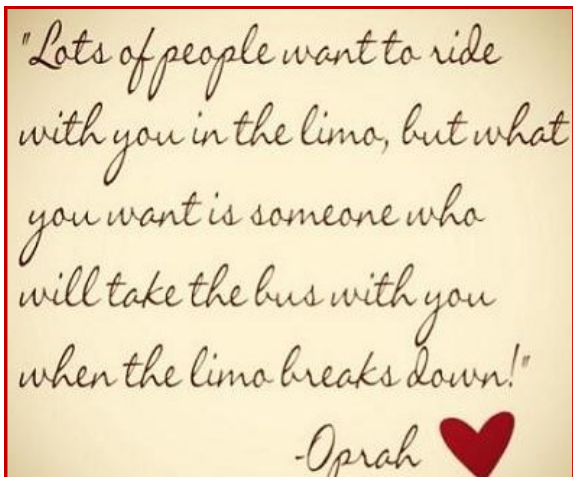
Many authors, like Milne supposedly wrote for kids, but through those childhood stories we learn. The above quote is, I think, a feeling each of us has from time to time. We just need to know that someone really does care for us.

In Charlotte's Web by E. B. White Wilbur asks "Why did you do all this for me?" he asked. 'I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.' 'You have been my friend,' replied Charlotte. 'That in itself is a tremendous thing.'

This quote begins the friendship between Charlotte and the pig, Wilbur. It reveals the theme of the book and the strength and love of real friendship. Real friends will do things for others.

Several hymns come to mind when I think of our friend, Christ. There is no better friend. One of our choir members, who has now passed on to his eternal reward, and whose name was Andy used to often sing "Andy walks with Me, Andy talks with Me, and he tells Me I am his own." We all knew the song he was paraphrasing, but we also knew that Andy had a very close friendship with his Lord. To this day I will think of Andy when I hear that song.

I had the pleasure of knowing many teachers that were friends to their students and encouraged them in a very positive way. They were always professional as a teacher. They were fair and could encourage the students to do their best. They would not favor the "A" student but saw potential in each individual.



"Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down!"
-Oprah ❤️

A well-known song about our friendship with Christ was written in the 1800's. The first verse says

*"I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him,
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus He bound me to Him;*

*And round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which nought can sever,
For I am His, and He is mine,
Forever and forever."*

We all need a friend in Jesus. We also need human friends on this earth and we need to be a friend. Many wonderful treasures are available to us through good friends. Piglet wanted to be sure of Pooh's friendship. We need that same assurance. Someone who is there for us. But we also need to be there for someone else. It is a wonderful highway of love.

Prayer: Lord, help me to always know that You are my friend regardless of the situations around me. Help me to be a friend to someone else and then share with them the love You have given to me and the assurance that You are always there every day of our lives, 24/7. Thank You for being my best friend. Amen.

1. Who is your friend?
2. Can you be a friend to others?
3. Is Jesus your friend? If so, what does that mean?



"Good friends are those who care" with out hesitations. "who remember" with out limitations. And "who remains the same" even without communications.



4. What are your duties as a friend to others?
5. Where does love figure into being a friend?
6. Can it sometimes be dangerous to be a friend to someone?

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