

April 18, 2021

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear; what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. The beautiful words of this hymn speak of the tender, loving friendship that Jesus gives. The fourth and final stanza proclaim a powerful truth about our friend Jesus: His compassionate faithfulness. *Can we find a friend so faithful; who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Jesus knows us, better than we know ourselves. He's aware of our greatest triumphs and lowest defeats. Jesus shares our highest joys and weeps with us in our deepest sorrows. He sees our strengths and knows our weaknesses; penetrating beyond the external, Jesus peers into the unseen places of our mind and heart. Nothing remains hidden from Jesus. Even still, Jesus remains a faithful friend.

Yet a good friend doesn't remain silent. He tells us not only what we want to hear, but what we need to hear. Proverbs 27:6 says, "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*" This is not speaking of physical blows, but pointed words which address areas in our lives that need correcting—words that are unpleasant to hear, but when heeded, bring needed and positive change to our life.

No one does that better than Jesus, our faithful friend. He knows not only our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds, but Jesus is also fully aware of our corrupt hearts and wicked desires. And He still loves us, befriends us, and, yes, speaks words that address sin in us. Words of law, words we don't want to hear, words that wound our fragile egos. However, these wounds of the law are not spoken with the intent to cause lasting damage, but rather to create permanent healing. Words that drive us to the one place this healing can be found: the cross.

Our friend Jesus doesn't only speak about our sin, but became the sacrifice for our sin so we could be healed. Jesus lived perfectly, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously for us. *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.*

Our friend Jesus not only speaks words that wound but also words that heal. Because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection for those wounded by His words of law, hear His gospel words that heal: "*Your sins are forgiven*" (Matthew 9:5).

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AFLC Promotion for April is the Bible College