# When You Need a Friend

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## When You Need a Friend

DO YOU EVER wish that you had a friend to help you out of life's difficulties?

Perhaps you are discouraged. Your life has been filled with sorrow and loneliness and disappointment. You seem to have had more trouble than others. When you seek comfort from those around you, they do not understand or do not care. You wish there was someone who could stand by your side and help you.

Or it may be that you are struggling with some habit—some evil appetite or passion that holds you in its grip. Time after time you have determined to cut loose from it, but then you find yourself powerless to resist. You yearn for some friend who has power to set you free.

Then again you might be among those who are burdened by a sense of sin and guilt. Voices from the past will not be silenced. Like angry bloodhounds, your sins refuse to let you escape. If only there was someone who could forgive you, and let you make a clean start.

Or finally it may be that you need a friend in your sickness. You are wearied by pain and suffering, and terrified at the thought of what might happen. How often, in your quiet moments, you have longed for some voice to speak peace to your heart, and some strong hand to help you face the future unafraid!

Everyone feels the need of such a friend at one time or another. But where is he to be found?

The Bible gives the answer. The Friend you need is the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no one who can heal the

broken heart like Jesus. Who but He can snap the chains of habit and set the captive free? He is the Friend who alone has power to forgive sins. And no one else can provide real comfort in time of sickness or death.

The best of all friends is the Lord Jesus. He is the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). He is always near when you need Him. He is a Friend who loves at all times, in adversity as well as in prosperity. He is an unfailing Friend, one who will never leave you. The proof of His friendship is the Cross of Calvary. There it stands in lone majestic splendor, telling all the world that the Son of God shed His blood for sinful mankind so that He might save those who believe on Him, and be their Friend forever.

But perhaps you say, "Christ lived 1900 years ago. How can He be my Friend today?" It is true that Christ lived 1900 years ago, but it is just as true that He lives today. He rose from the grave three days after His death, and afterward He ascended into Heaven. That is where He is today—seated at God's right hand.

This is how you can make Him your Friend. Go to Him by faith with all your need. Confess your sins to Him. Admit that you cannot save yourself, and that unless He saves you, you will be lost forever. Then receive Him as your Lord and Saviour.

If you do this, God's Word assures you that Christ will save you. For "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Whenever Christ becomes your Lord and Saviour, He also becomes your Friend. He will comfort you, cheer

you, help you, and then, when life is over, He will take you safely home to Heaven.

Christ speaks to you today as you face life's difficulties alone. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

He wants to be your Friend. Will you let Him?

—WILLIAM MACDONALD