

HEROES AND FRIENDS (PART 2)

By Keith Greer

We can find many godly examples of "heroes of the faith" that help to encourage us towards a life that will be right with God. We began this article with the lyrics of a song :
"Heroes will help you find good in yourself. Friends won't forsake you for somebody else.."

When we think of the friends that we have on earth, there are certain characteristics that most of us look for. First, we generally find friendship with someone in which we share a common bond. Friends care deeply about one another. A good friend understands when we try to do our best, and fail.

Certainly, there are those that are easier for us to get to know. So, what does this have to do with Christianity? Can, we as some have suggested, love each other, but we don't really have to like each other?

We can read in James 2:21-23 that "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God. "

Through Jesus, we see the perfect example of a true Friend, and while most of us will not be required to sacrifice our physical lives to serve God, we certainly need to be laying down our lives daily in His service. Only if we obey Him, can we be called, as Abraham was, a friend of God.

In John 15: 12-14, Jesus tells us that "This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

In John 13:34-35, Jesus said further that "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1John 3:16)

Jesus is our best friend. God's Son demonstrated his love for us by dying for us on the cross of Calvary. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." { Romans 5:8-10}

Even though we may feel alone at times, we are promised that " ... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. " (Hebrews 13:5-6)

During my life many other Christians have been "my heroes." Preachers, elders, strong women in the church and even those who overcame difficult circumstances of life to not only be in God's family, but at a high personal cost. Never underestimate the power of your example or influence. People are observing us as we live and walk down the pathway of life. Dear reader, you may touch someone's heart in a way you will never know – but you do make a difference. God help us all to never sell our example and influence short. Bible heroes and Christian friends - it doesn't get any better than this! ***