

# Friendships: By Erica Jermanus

If you have a hard time making and keeping friends,  
then this book is for you.

This book is for the child of God who has a hard time making and keeping friends. You may start talking to a new friend, but you may have a hard time keeping the conversation going or keeping that friendship. Maybe you talk to a new friend for a day, but then you stop talking to them for the rest of the month or year. You may not know if that person wants to be your friend, or if that friend is sent from God or the enemy. You may not know where to go with a friendship. You may need to go to God when you enter into new friendships or relationships. Before you get into a friendship, ask God if that person was sent from Him or the enemy.

Ask God for discernment to discern if a person has ill motives and intentions towards you. A person may be jealous of the presence that you carry, or the anointing and call of God on your life. A person may not be on the same level as you spiritually and may not be able to go with you where God is taking you. Some friends in your life may use you for what they can get out of you. You may be really gifted and talented or have the money or time that you give a person. So, a person may be sucking you dry because they feed off of your energy or your money. The enemy is sending that

person in your life to accomplish his will, plan, and purpose.

That's right: the enemy has a will for your life, and so does God. The enemy will try to send his agents or dominions in your life to destroy you and everything in your life that is good or that belongs to God. The enemy is already defeated at the cross. You have victory over him if you don't allow him access to you through the people and things in your life. You may have opened doors to the enemy because of sin. You may need to confess and renounce sins in your life and close those doors that you are keeping open for the enemy.

You may need to ask God to remove certain people from your life who were sent by the enemy. When you ask Him to do that, you will watch people walk out of your life. The wrong people will leave you for no reason. There will be people who may not want to be your friends anymore. Maybe a person got disconnected from you or their car broke down. That is God protecting you from those people and cutting off that person or people from your life. But so many times we want to go back to what God has delivered us from.

So, many times we want to entertain the same wrong people and friendships because we need them in our lives or because we love them. We feel we do not want to hurt those people by leaving them, but we need to do what is right and best. We need to be willing to follow Jesus Christ and His will for our lives. It may be hard at times to follow and obey God because we want what we want. We want our own will and our own desires. But sometimes we need to be willing to walk away from the things and people that no longer serve us or that no longer add value to our lives.

God is going to bring people into our lives who are sent by Him. Those are the people that we show ourselves to be friendly too. I am not talking about being overly friendly where we cling to the person. But being friendly where we continue to stay in contact with this person and nurture the relationship because it is God ordained and God destined. But the people who are not God-ordained or destined to be in our lives, we may need to learn to let those people go. If we don't let those people go, then God is going to close those doors for us. He will have to step in Himself and do what we will not do.

There are going to be times when we are alone, and it seems like we have no one but Jesus Christ alone. Truth be told, He is all we really need in our lives. Because if we have Him, He will provide the right people at the right time. Jesus Christ is a friend who will never betray us or let us down. He is a friend who will always be there for us through the good and the bad. He is the friend that we can trust and the only one we can trust who is true and genuine. He understands us like no one else. He understands our pain and He knows our hearts.

Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

There are people who come and go in our lives. There are people who are in our lives for a time and season. When that season is done and over and that person has fulfilled their assignment and purpose, then that person moves on from our lives. That is when God will bring new people into our lives when we have let go of the old people. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Jesus Christ had twelve disciples, but one of them betrayed him and that was Judas Iscariot. Jesus Christ knew who was going to betray Him even before it happened. He knew that was all part of the plan. Jesus Christ needed Judas to betray Him so that He could finish the work of the cross and die for the sins of all mankind. Not everyone will be saved, unfortunately. It is only those who do the will of the Father who will have eternal life. Matthew 7:21 says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus Christ knew who was going to accept Him or reject Him. He knew who would walk away from Him. In fact, many of His disciples stopped walking with Him because His teachings were too hard to understand. John 6:66 says, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Even the Apostle Peter denied Jesus Christ three times, but then he repented and came back to Christ.

So, when you choose a friend, you want to look at the fruit in their lives. Are they bearing good fruit for the kingdom of God? Are they operating in the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22-23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Another thing you want to look for in a friend is their character and how they love and treat others. A friend with good character is a friend who has been through a lot of trials and hardships in their lives. These trials and tribulations have made them stronger and have shaped and molded them into who they are today.

If a friend is bearing bad fruit by gossiping, smoking, drinking, clubbing, or speaking foul language, then that is not a friend you want to hang around with. You may start to pick up on their bad habits and even become addicted to sin. You may need to separate from those people that will lead you to sin and away from God. You may need to ask God to remove those people from your life that are not sent from Him, but instead are meant to destroy you. Ask God to send people of like-minded faith who will draw you closer to Him and not away from Him. Ask Him to send people who will help you

fulfill your purpose in life. God has those people out there for you, but you need to be willing to wait on Him to send you those people. God's timing is perfect. He is never late.