

## Elder Bobby Willis



Proverbs 18:24, **“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”**

If there is a scripture that expresses its own meaning without outside clarification, it is this statement declared by Solomon. A stick in the mud person who goes about with a chip on their shoulder, negative about everything that happens, and is sour on the world, is usually a good description of one who has a neon sign over their head saying, *‘I don’t want friends’*. If you don’t have any friends, perhaps you need to look in the mirror and see what image you are reflecting.

We are to have the image of Christ; a bright and shining image which reflects our Lord in everything we set our hands to do. It is true that not everyone will be your friend and that is not a bad thing. I have no desire to be a friend to those who know not God and defame His name. Those I covet as friends are those who have the love of God in their heart and go about joyfully enduring the trials and afflictions of life, knowing that a better day is coming because of our **“friend that sticketh closer than a brother”** (Christ).

Friends are those whom you can share things with. Notice the parable of the lost sheep. When the shepherd found the one sheep that had wandered off, what did he do? He **“calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.”** Friends are those whom you can rejoice with.

Now, notice the parable of the woman who had lost one of her ten pieces of silver. Luke 15:9 says, **“And when she hath found it, she called her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.”** Again, we see the benefit of having friends and rejoicing with them, causing a joyful spirit to be had and shared.

Cherish your friends! They are indeed well worth having. Those of you whom I feel to be my friends, I humbly cherish and recognize my need of you. If you don't think you have enough, go to work on cultivating new ones. The more you have to rejoice with, the better. In addition, they make wonderful prayer partners. ***"Think About IT!"***