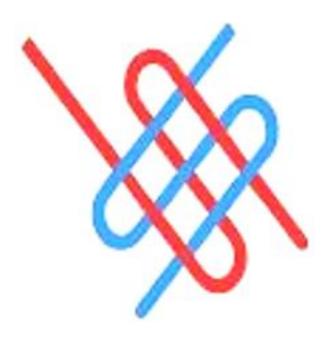
## by Olawale Ogunsola



Have you taken time to ask this question: Who is my friend? Can you mention the name of just one person who loves you so much that he can die for you? A man/woman can claim to love you today to hate you tomorrow for any reason. Read some of the things a friend can do to you in the words of King David, "For it was not an enemy that reproached me;then I could have borne it: nether was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me;then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man my equal, my guide, mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company. ... wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them. "Psalm 55:12-15.

Have you experienced or are you experiencing these from a friend? Take heart! Mankind is always mankind. That is why Micah 7:5 states, "Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide:keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom."

Why must you not trust a friend? Psalm 55:21 adds,

"The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart:his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords."

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What then can you do because you must have a friend to live a meaningful and successful life? Psalm 55:22 instructs, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee:he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

The Lord expressly assures you in "Greater love hath"

no man than this,that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends,if you do whatsoever I command you."

This simply means that the Lord Jesus Christ loves you. He died for your sins. You are His friend if you do what He commands you to do. What is His commandment? John 15:12 answers, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

For your love to have true meaning, He states in Mark1:15 that "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT YE, AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

How do you go about this? Simple!

Acknowledge the fact that you are imperfect and full of misdeeds. Admit them and vow to do away with them forever. Say it with your mouth and believe with your heart that Jesus Chris is your Lord and Savior. Ask Jesus to cleanse your heart and make it His abode forever. Belong to a group of saints reasoning from the Scriptures regularly. Meditate alone as you read the Holy Bible.

These simple steps marks the beginning of a long-lasting friendship between you and the Lord. He will be with you forever. He will never forsake you. He will never disappoint you. That is why King David states, "...in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." Psalm 56:4,11.

That is a friend indeed for you, trust Him.

NB:Every guoted verse is from King James Version of the Bible.

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