



WORK AT MAKING FRIENDS

G. Campbell Morgan once said, "A man has many acquaintances in life, but few friends."

On the wall in our home is a piece of needlework which reads, "Friends are like is, precious and rare; but acquaintances are like leaves, scattered everywhere."

You don't have to explain to friends. You don't have to impress friends. You don't have to put on a facade for friends. Friends want you to be yourself around them. Friends understand. You can confide in friends. Friends are faithful. Friends understand when you feel bad and don't feel like talking. Your enemies won't believe your explanations, and your friends don't need them.

The Bible says in Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loveth at all times. . . ." And Proverbs 18:24 declares, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly. . . ." Proverbs 27:10 reminds us, "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not."

The Scripture tells us in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

How do we make friends? Well, I've already shared the Scripture that says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly."

You must be a friend to make a friend. You don't attract what you *want*; you attract what you *are*.

Another suggestion is found in Proverbs 19:6 - "and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts." I'm thinking now of one of my own dear friends, and it just occurred to me that I only see him two or three times a year; and nearly every time I do, he has some gift for me. Oh, it's not some expensive thing but some little something he saw and thought I might enjoy.

He's not trying to buy my friendship. He has too much character for that. But rather, he's trying to demonstrate his friendship to me. He reminds me often, "I am your friend." And I believe him.

It's not the things he gives but the thoughtfulness he demonstrates. I notice when I am around him that he has many other friends, and I've often heard men refer to him as "my friend." He has a lot of friends because he does those things the Bible says one must do to have friends.