



## NEED A FRIEND THEN BE A FRIEND

Friendship is a valued commodity in our society. Everyone longs to have at least one faithful friend who can be counted on for encouragement and warmth.

***"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."  
(Proverbs 17:17)***

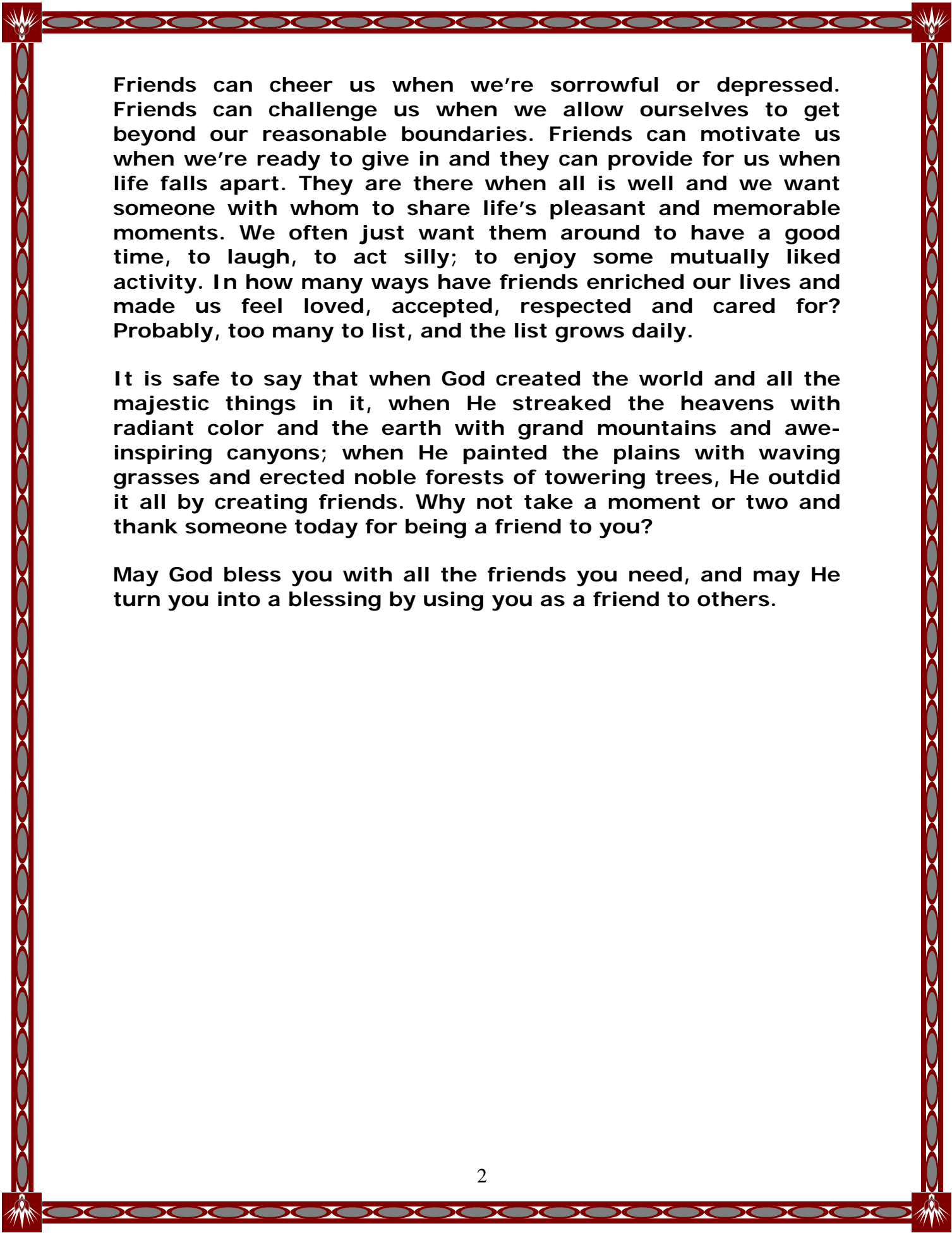
Here is a quote I love from an unknown source regarding how you can always tell a real friend: ***"when you've made a fool of yourself, he doesn't feel you've done a permanent job of it."***

A lot of people go through life with only a few friends. It seems that some have less than that. They have no one on whom they can call in good times or bad. There is no one with whom to bounce ideas around, or to talk about deep and troubling subjects. They seem to have no one to call in times of need or difficulty.

And then there are those who have a multitude of friends. Wherever they go, people know them and like to be around them. Should trouble strike, their biggest hesitation might be over which friend to call. They know exactly the person with whom to discuss the topics of inquiry and debate. Life is full of entertaining and invigorating relationships because it is full of friends.

There ought to be a course in school on friendship. Of course, some people are perfectly happy to operate with fewer friends. They might rather have a few deep and loyal friends, than many superficial ones. Others thrive best when friends are everywhere and numerous. It is not so much the number of friends that is important as is the possession of friends, period.

Friendship is a blessing and a friend is the channel through whom great emotional, spiritual and physical blessings flow.



Friends can cheer us when we're sorrowful or depressed. Friends can challenge us when we allow ourselves to get beyond our reasonable boundaries. Friends can motivate us when we're ready to give in and they can provide for us when life falls apart. They are there when all is well and we want someone with whom to share life's pleasant and memorable moments. We often just want them around to have a good time, to laugh, to act silly; to enjoy some mutually liked activity. In how many ways have friends enriched our lives and made us feel loved, accepted, respected and cared for? Probably, too many to list, and the list grows daily.

It is safe to say that when God created the world and all the majestic things in it, when He streaked the heavens with radiant color and the earth with grand mountains and awe-inspiring canyons; when He painted the plains with waving grasses and erected noble forests of towering trees, He outdid it all by creating friends. Why not take a moment or two and thank someone today for being a friend to you?

May God bless you with all the friends you need, and may He turn you into a blessing by using you as a friend to others.