



April 2017

Dear Friends,

My first real memory of a best friend or BFF as the kids say today was my cousin. Charlene and I were like twins, we did everything together. We played together, we bathed together, and we were even in a stage play together. We were the mice in Psalty, the singing mice. She was like my sister and though we fought sometimes we always forgave each other. Then we started school and we started to grow in different directions. It wasn't anyone's fault, it just happened.

In the first grade I met my new best friend. Again we were inseparable, joined at the hip, as our parents would say. She was even my next door neighbor so we were together day and night. She was the prettiest girl, her hair was straight and long and I often found myself being jealous of her. I wanted to be her so I followed her around like a love sick puppy. So when my parents told me we had to move, I was devastated. How would I go on without my best friend?

When I got to my new school everything and everyone was so foreign, I felt lost, but on the third day a young girl with curly hair befriended me and once again I was blessed with a new best friend. Her nickname was Lulu and I loved her dearly. We were very close; we could finish each other's sentences. We stayed best friends till we got to high school, where a huge fight damaged our friendship to the point where we went our separate ways.

Again I found myself alone, without a best friend. No one to share my hopes and dreams with, no one to talk to about boys. This pattern repeated itself over and over. I had some good friends, some bad friends and some friends that disappointed me, hurt me and left me. But then in my twenties I made a friend, the best friend I ever had.

He was amazing, perfect even. He was always available, always supportive, he never judged me, never made me feel inferior, always loved me unconditionally, and He never disappointed me. I would do something bad or say something that I know would hurt him and he would just forgive me, like nothing happened. In fact, he would forget it entirely. To this day he is still my best friend. His name is Jesus. The best decision I made was when I asked Him to become my best friend.

John 15:13 says: **"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."**

Do you know that Jesus loved you so much that he died for you? And he did it knowing you would probably sin against him, probably reject him. He loves you that much and he wants to be your friend.

Proverbs 18:24 says: "There are **"friends"** who destroy each other, but a real **friend** sticks **closer than a brother.**"

Jesus is that friend, the one that will be closer than a brother, a father or a mother. He won't disappoint you. He will always be there.

I realized when Jesus became my friend that all the other friends I had were good, great even but they weren't perfect. And neither was I, we were nasty at times, hurt each other and we abandoned each other. Even family will do that to you, sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose.

But Jesus will never do that, never! You can always rely on him; he will never leave you or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).

And more than that, he will never hold anything against you. There is nothing you have done, nothing you will do, nothing that has been done to you that can separate you from His perfect love. There is no sin bigger than the sacrifice he made on the cross.

"And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins." – Hebrews 8:12

If you find yourself today, needing that kind of friend all you need to do is ask. You don't need fancy words, you don't need to be in a church, you can ask this anywhere and at any time.

Jesus, I believe you are the son of God, that you died on the cross for my sins and that you rose from the dead. Please forgive me of everything bad in my life and come and live in me and be my best friend forever. Amen.

Now you have the best friend a man or woman could ask for. There are millions of people around the world that have also asked Him to be their friend which makes us all friends. It doesn't matter where you are, you are part of a family now and you have a friend that will stick with you through anything.

God bless you my friend in Jesus.

Corien Roulstone, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16