

FRIENDS MATTER ... What Kind of Friend are You?

Mark 2:1-5 NIV

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

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Genesis 2:18

'It is not good for man to be alone'

Philippians 2:2,3 TPT

"So, I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity - with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy. Be free from pride-filled opinions, or they will only harm your cherished unity."

Henri Nouwen wrote, "Community is first and foremost a gift of the Holy Spirit, not built upon mutual compatibility, shared affection, or common interests, but upon having received the same divine breath, having been given a heart set aflame by the same divine fire and having been embraced by the same divine love. It is the God-within who brings us into communion with each other and makes us one. It consoles us with the revelation that God indeed does want to create amongst us the unity we most long for."