



Dear Neighbour,

Years ago my mother-in-law said some wise words to me: “In life you will have *many* acquaintances and *few*

friends”. Recently I was reminded of her words as I went through a time of loneliness. The pace of modern living, despite having many appliances and conveniences, results in inward-looking lifestyles and leaves very little time for friendship. We all need someone to share the highs and lows and in-between times of our lives. I feel sure that God gave us faithful dogs to comfort us during these times. It was during such a week when I was overworked, stressed and felt very alone in the world that my focus shifted to my need for friendship and a revelation of my Best Friend...

The truth is that friends come and go throughout life. School friends become tertiary education friends, work mates, and as our circumstances and locations change in life, so do are friends. However, there is ONE FRIEND who will remain throughout your earthly life and into eternity – Jesus Christ. David, a shepherd boy who became the greatest king of Israel, gave us Psalm 139 to remind and comfort us with these truths:

GOD, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand.

I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight.

You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.

I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too-- your reassuring presence, coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful-- I can't take it all in!

Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight?

If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there!

If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon,

You'd find me in a minute-- you're already there waiting!

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb.

I thank you, High God--you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration--what a creation!

You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.

Your thoughts--how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them!

I couldn't even begin to count them-- any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!...

(Psalm 139:1-18 The Message Version).

Friendship requires relationship and if God seems distant to you, then that is what you need – a relationship with God. The born-again conversion experience of a Christian not only removes our guilt of sin before God, but it turns us from being people who are at enmity with God into the friends of God. ***"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God*** (James 2:23).

If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died, was buried in a tomb, and rose from the dead after three days, in order to give you the gift of eternal life, then miraculously you can also find peace with God and a friendship that surpasses all other earthly friendships. What a friend we have in Jesus. Today, Jesus wants to be *your* best friend, the only friend you will ever have who is available 24/7 and who will remain with you for eternity! Do you believe this?

x Libby