

A Central SERIES

Great Friendships OF THE BIBLE



**18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.**

ROMANS 12:18

I Will Bless the Lord

26

O Lord,
Avenge me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity
and I have trusted in the Lord
without wavering.
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,
test my heart and my mind,
for your steadfast love is before my eyes
and I walk in your faithfulness.

ACTS 9:26-27

26 When he [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

ACTS 9:26-27

27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

ACTS 11:25-26

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

ACTS 13:2-3

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.**

and my tongue sucks to my jaws
you lay me in the dust of death.
For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
I am counted among the dead;
my bones are close to death,
and my heart is like wax,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of
the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of
the wild oxen!

I will tell of your name to my brothers,
in the midst of the congregation I will
praise you.
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you
offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard when he cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
my vows I will perform before those
who fear him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the
Lord!
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember

those who seek him; shall praise the
Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall re-
member, even the one who could not
himself alive.
Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the
coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim his
righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that he has done it.

For the Lord is my strength,
and he has become my stronghold;
of Jacob, glorify him,
2 He makes his horn all you
pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of
justice for his name's sake.

* I will praise you, O Lord, though I am afflicted,
for your anger is not kindled against me,
and you have not hated me.

For this is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

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without wavering.
2 Prove me, O Lord, and try me,
test my heart and my mind,
3 for your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk on your faithfulness.

ACTS 15:36-38

36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

ACTS 15:36-38

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

ACTS 15:39a

39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

How do we make sense of all this?

God is always working,
when our friendships are not.

ACTS 15:39-41

**39Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,
40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the
believers to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through
Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.**

Don't try to play judge and jury.

the lion's mouth
you lay me in the dust of death
For dogs encompass me
a company of evildoers encircles me
they have pierced my hands and feet—
I am counted among the dead;
my bones are close to death,
my heart is close to the grave,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
I will tell of your name to my brothers
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you
You who fear the Lord, praise him,
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him
and stand in awe of him, all you
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For he has not despised or abhorred
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From you comes my praise in the great
congregation,
my vows I will perform before those
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All the ends of the earth shall re-
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Posterity shall serve him,
it shall be told of the Lord to the
coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim his
righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that he has done it.
He makes his way known to all
of Jacob, glorify him,
He makes his way known to all
pastures,
He leads me beside still waters,
He restores my soul,
He leads me in paths of
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me,
your rod and staff comfort me.

who seek him
who seek the face of the God of
Jacob
All up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in;
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!
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The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!

His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
The friendship of the Lord is for those
who fear him,
and he makes known to them his
covenant.
My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the
net.
Ever have the loving-kindness of the
Lord, O my soul,
and my mouth
shall declare your praise,
O Lord.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they
hate me.
Oh, guard my soul and deliver me,
Let me not be put to shame, for I
take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness
preserve me,
for I wait for you.
Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.
I Will Bless the Lord
O Lord,
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without wavering.
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,
test my heart and my mind,
for your steadfast love is before my eyes
and I walk in your faithfulness.

Don't try to play judge and jury.
Keep moving forward in what
God has called you to do.

How do we make sense of all this?

God is always working,
even when our friendships are not.

We never know the end of the story,
so keep the doors open.

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COLOSSIANS 4:10

10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

2 TIMOTHY 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

those who seek him shall praise the
Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall re-
joice,
even the one who could not
save himself alive.
30 Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the
coming generation;
31 they shall come and proclaim his
righteousness to a people yet
to be born.

Don't be of yourself

Stay sweet as much as

1 The Lord is glorified
in the church,
of Jacob, glorify him.
2 He makes his home all you
pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
3 He restores my mind.
He leads me in paths of
for his names sake.

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God is always working,
even when our friendships are not.

We never know the end of the story,
so keep the doors open.

Our personal hurts never need
to erode our confidence in God.

26

2 TIMOTHY 4:16-17

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but

everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so

that through me the message might be fully proclaimed

and all the Gentiles might hear it.

ROMANS 8:31-32

31 ...If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

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God is always working...

We never know the end of the story...

But who can be against us if God is for us?

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19 Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they
hate me.
20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I
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21 May integrity and uprightness
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