



SOME-
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CHRISTIAN FRIEND — did you ever really fall in love? If you have ever been truly in love with someone, you have had an unforgettable experience, even if you “loved and lost”.

Remember the joy of anticipation whenever you had the opportunity of looking forward to even a *little* time with your beloved? Remember the yearning of your heart to be re-united when circumstances kept you apart? How could you forget it, if you ever experienced the “real thing!” Well, let me remind you of perhaps the most glorious fact in all the universe: **SOMEONE** — yes, the most wonderful Person who ever lived, is feeling that way *right now* about you!

This is said, assuming that you are most probably in the condition of 99% of the folk who have known what it is to be born into the family of God through the “New Birth” of which Jesus spoke in the third chapter of John, and for whom he later said concerning his admonition to “*abide in me as a branch abideth in the vine*”: “*These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.*”

Is your joy continuously FULL these days in Him, Christian friend? Are you *growing* in your Christian life spiritually till you can *honestly* sing “Sweeter as the DAYS Go By?” Not many Christians **are**, you know. So very many things get in the way of this kind of abiding. *Some of*

us get so busy serving the God we love we have no time to love the God we serve! Some of us are so busy we only dimly realize how far from that first fervent love we have drifted. But HE does! I believe the most thrilling contemplation I have in my Christian life is to realize that in spite of all the maze of complications into which I may have allowed myself to become involved — in spite of the trials and difficulties I may be going through, there is my Beloved, waiting, yearning, doing His best to draw me into His comforting arms and forgive me as soon as I ask Him to, for my fussing, doubting, complaining, or anything else that has temporarily dimmed for me, the joy of His presence. Oh what a privilege to have a Friend like that! To know that He loves me with an everlasting love that never dims and to realize the fantastic truth that HE *yearns* for *me*, and for my reciprocated love!

Dear Christian friend, never for a moment forget that His love is the most precious asset you will ever have. The most precious that *anybody* ever had. And remember, DO remember that a love like His, carries with it (for Him) a great ache of heart when it is even temporarily separated from the object of its affection. Just think of it, every moment that you are not reciprocating His love fervently, joyously, gladly and eagerly, is a moment in which you are causing His great heart to ache, for He loves you like that. Yes, always remember that the only thing in all the universe that will satisfy *any* lover is reciprocated love from the object of his affection — freely returned

in like manner and intensity with which it is given. And nobody ever loved you as He loves you. Why, He loved you thousands of years before you were born! Yes, we can give you multiple references from His precious Word that He knew way back in the eons of eternity past (before He even made the world to put you in) that you would mis-use your freedom of choice and fall into sin — hopelessly lost without a Saviour. And way back there, the plans were made with the Father, to come and rescue you out of your misery, to save you from the awful fate sin would have brought to you if He had not come to be your substitute and die in your place. Why did the Father, to Whom the Son was so precious that He was “daily His delight,” permit Him to suffer like that for you? Just because He DID love Him so! Like any good father, He wanted His beloved Son to have a Bride that would truly satisfy His heart with real, fervent, reciprocated love! Don't rob Him of that.

—Joel H. Darby

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