# OPEN HEARTS IN A CLOSED WORLD

## Conference

## "Spiritual Sisterhood, (Going Beneath the Facade)"

## "FORGING FRIENDSHIPS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST"

**I. The Gospel**

**a.) Chosen by God in eternity past**

**b.) Saved through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross**

**c.) Salvation through repentance and faith in the finished work of Jesus**

**II. Friendships…**

**a.) With God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**
**b.) Husbands**
**c.) Mothers/Mothers-in-law**
**d.) Christian women**

**III. A Closer Walk with God**

**a.) Reading and Studying the Bible**
**b.) Memorizing and Meditating on the Word (M & M's)**
**c.) Obedience to God**

**"The only way to have a friend is to be a friend." Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**IV. Three Descriptions of Friendship by Carl B. Bridges**

**a.) Association/Acquaintance**
**b.) Loyalty**
**c.) Affection**

**Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard others as more important than yourself. Do not merely look out for your own interests, but for the interests of others."**

**V. Friendship does not…**

**a.) act selfishly**
**b.) betray…**
**1.) Gossip**
**2.) Compromise confidences**
**c.) Lead astray**
**d.) Misunderstand**

**VI. Examples of Friendships from Scripture:**

**a.) Naomi & Ruth**
**b.) Mary, the mother of Jesus & her friends**
**c.) Mary & Martha**
**d.) David & Jonathan**
**e.) Paul & fellow workers for the gospel**

**VII. Qualities to cultivate in your life and to look for in another's….**
**Love, Loyalty, Faithfulness, Dependability, Trustworthiness, Affectionate, Humble, Sincere, Honesty, Merciful, Forgiving, Compassionate, Patient, Kind, Good, Gentle, Sacrificial, a Servant, Hospitable, Tenderhearted, Protective, Available.**

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer.**

**O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness: take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**In His arms He'll take and shield you, take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Joseph Scrivens**