

Cornerstone Conversations

While flying from Europe back to the US, Joe Stowell President of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, found himself sitting next to a little girl who never stopped talking from the moment she sat down. She told him the history of her family and all about her puppy, who was in the hold of the plane. She pointed excitedly to everything around them, "Look at this! Look at that!" and Joe couldn't help but think that 8 hours of this could make for a very long flight!

They chatted for a while until she suddenly got quiet. She pulled her blanket up around her, so Joe thought maybe she was going to doze off. He quickly took advantage of the break and reached for the nearest magazine. But before He could open it, he felt a little elbow in his side. he looked down at the little girl, and she threw out her little hand and said, "Hey, Joe, wanna be friends?"

His heart melted. "Sure," he said, "let's be friends."

In the middle of the turmoil of life, when we think all we want is to be left alone, Jesus extends His nail-scarred hand and invites us to be His friends. He says, "I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). We have a choice: to keep to ourselves, or to open our heart to a friendship of unlimited love and guidance.

There is a lovely hymn that we often sing that talks about this very topic, but you know sometimes when we sing hymns, we don't actually take time to really read the words and they can be such a comfort, and full of biblical truths.

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer. —Scriven

Jesus longs to be your Friend.

Rev. Linda