

## THE CHRISTIAN'S BEST FRIEND

***Proverbs 6:22*** *When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.*

Solomon was speaking about the commandments of the father and mother. It is clear that he was referring to the word of God. The Queen of Sheba travelled from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom that God gave Solomon. All we need to do is open the pages of the Bible to enjoy this wisdom. So, what does Solomon say? He says there is a book that will lead you, keep you when you sleep, and talk with you when you awake. What an incredible book! Why don't we all take out our Bibles, have a close look at it, and declare – "this is my best friend!" Is there a friend who can be so intimate as to keep us when we sleep? Yes, the word of God! "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

***Proverbs 6:21*** *Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.*

Solomon admonishes us to bind the word of God around our necks. There are many people who go around with necklaces of gold and silver. They are not ashamed of advertising their names, someone they love or just grotesque skulls and bones. What does having a tie on really signify? I am not sure! God wants us to tie his word around our necks; he does not want us to be ashamed of being companions of his word. There clearly would be a problem if we say that someone is our best friend and we are ashamed to introduce him or her to others. God was so proud to present the name of Job to Satan because Job was God's best friend. "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:8). The Hebrew term for "consider" is *lēb* and means to look at the mind, heart and soul of the inner man. Praise Jesus! The word of God speaks to us on the level of the mind, heart and soul. God and Job had such an intimate relationship. There is no other way to fellowship with God – it must be heart to heart. "Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me" (Psalm 42:7). The human soul is so deep that only the God who is equally higher can fill and satisfy it. Please don't be disappointed in human relations – they were never meant to satisfy us the way Jesus can.

***Isaiah 55:9*** *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Solomon speaks about the word of God in the same way one speaks about a living person. "...and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee" (Proverbs 6:22). Normally, when one awakes, one is cranky and looks forward to perhaps a cup of coffee before we hear human voices. Not so with the word of God! It has a way of talking with you while you are asleep in your dreams and while you are awaking. When everyone else said goodnight, the word of God never said goodnight. It leads us into our sleep, keeps talking to us while we sleep and gently continues talking as we reorient ourselves in the world of the living. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12). See how wonderful this friend is! When the soldiers sent by the chief priests and officers came to arrest Jesus, they heard him talking, and they decided to listen for perhaps a few moments. That is all the Bible needs – a few moments of our time. Doesn't matter what your intention might – to tear it up, burn it or denounce it; just listen for a few moments.

**John 7:45** *Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?*

**John 7:46** *The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.*

Never a book spoke like this book! Let all the books in earth be silent when this book speaks! When this book speaks, demons are cast out, diseases are cured and the hearers are comforted, smile and rejoice. Let us remember that the word of God is the "I am" – it has no beginning and no end; it is always in the present. The Bible is not a history or geography book; it is forever and always fresh. Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Miriam, David, Peter, James are not individuals who are dead and buried in tombs like the mummies of the Pharaohs. "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err" (Mark 12:27). The people who walked and talked with God are still alive because the word of God never dies. There is no grave where you can find the word of God. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass" (Isaiah 40:7). How many wicked books have led people to an early grave and eternal death! There are many books whose titles should simply read "damnation". Do you know what the unforgiveable sin of the Jews was according to the Nazis? It was the word of God that they gave to the world. In the book, *A World Without Jews*, Professor of Jewish studies, Alon Confino, wrote that the Nazis played football with the holy scrolls of the Bible while the Synagogues burned. The Nazis according to him, were jealous with murderous envy that Judaism was the root of western and German culture. They wanted a new history with no

traces of the Judeo-Christian tradition. What happened when soldiers came to arrest Jesus? All he said was “I am” and they all fell backwards. This is what happened to Nazi Germany. They fell – never to rise again!

**John 18:6** *As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

**John 18:7** *Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.*

Finally, note that Solomon said, “... and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee” (Prov 6:22). The word of God does not talk to us, but talks with us. It has a conversation with us; it wants to hear what we have to say. This is how a good friend behaves. This also means the word of God will speak to us about our current situation – how are you doing today, every day? God revealed to Pharaoh while he slept that there would be seven years of famine, but since Pharaoh did not know God, he did not understand. Joseph, the friend of God, understood and revealed the dream. God is happy to talk to you about the high electricity prices, the high food prices and the war in the Ukraine in our modern times. He is happy to join in on our conversation and shed light on it, as he did the disciples on the Road to Emmaus. “And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?” (Luke 24:17). There is always a story in the Bible which we can identify with – whatever the sin, pain, suffering, joy, confusion etc., one may experience, there is a story that will speak to you and me. Like the Seraphim took a piece of coal and flew to touch the mouth of Isaiah, there is always a scripture from the Bible ready to fly towards us and bless us.

**Isaiah 6:6** *Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:*

**Isaiah 6:7** *And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*

Jesus calls us all to be his friends. “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:15). Let us come as we are. Don’t worry about your condition – the word of God is a hammer and chisel that will make mold and shape us into an acceptable condition. No one was permitted to use hammers or chisels on the stones for the Temple because they represent the word of God which humans cannot cut or shape – only God can cut and shape us. “And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it”

(Exodus 20:25). May God lift up his tools upon us – may we become the best friends of the word of God today!