

## You Got A Friend In Me – A Church Story

A couple weeks ago I used a giant sized Jenga set to show how the Word of God needs to be firmly established in our lives if we are going to have a faith that is solid, secure and intact!

**That sermon ended with a big crash, as I removed the foundational pieces one by one!** What was left, were all the pieces scattered on the ground!

That hit home for many of you! **So how do we rebuild? Piece by piece!**

All that has been removed must be restored, but how? **By experiencing God.**

Our God is alive, He is active, & He restoring the broken pieces of this world to its original created form! Will we let God do that good work in our lives?

God is on the move & speaking truth into our lives! He is in the midst of a rebuilding program! **Will we let Him put back the pieces & reconstruct us?**

**“So shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it!” – Isaiah 55:11**

God is still speaking to us today and He is putting back the pieces:

- **Let God speak to you through a relationship with Him!**
- Let God speak to you through His creation!
- Let God speak to you through the **Son – Jesus Christ!**
- Let God speak to you through the Bible!
- **Let God speak to you through prayer!**
- Let God speak to you through your circumstances!
- Let God speak to you through the Holy Spirit!
- **Let God speak to you through His Church!**

The Church can be a source of great reconstruction in our lives as God speaks to us through the people He joins us to within the Body of Christ!

Have you ever encountered God’s voice through the voice of a brother/sister in Christ? Have you ever felt God’s presence through the fellowship of the saints?

**What a great privilege we have to be instruments of God’s good purpose in each other’s lives!** How are we doing with this calling as a church family?

What does living out this calling look like? **John 15:12-16** **Video clip**

What are the Toy Story movies all about? **Friendship!**

What was Jesus all about when He walked this earth? **Establishing friendships!**

Jesus could have penned the words to the song – You Got a Friend in Me! But what do we do now that Jesus is no longer on earth? We turn to each other and say, “You got a friend in me & I will be a friend like Jesus to you!”

What does being a friend like Jesus to one another look like?

*Verse 1: “You’ve got a friend in me. You’ve got a friend in me  
When the road looks rough ahead, And you’re miles and miles  
from your nice warm bed, You just remember what your old pal said  
Boy, you’ve got a friend in me. Yeah, you’ve got a friend in me”*

**Paul had a friend like Jesus in Barnabas - Acts 4:26-27**

**Proverbs 18:24 – “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”**

*Verse 2: “You’ve got a friend in me. You’ve got a friend in me  
You’ve got troubles, I’ve got ‘em too. There isn’t anything I  
wouldn’t do for you. We stick together and we see it through  
Cause you’ve got a friend in me. You’ve got a friend in me”*

**Peter had a friend like Jesus in Paul - Galatians 2:11-14**

**Proverbs 17:17 – “A friend loves at all times, & a brother is born for adversity.”**

*Verse 3: “And as the years go by. Our friendship will never die.  
You’re gonna see it’s our destiny. You’ve got a friend in me  
You’ve got a friend in me. You’ve got a friend in me!”*

**We all ought to have friends like this in each other!** God intends to speak to us through the relationships we have with our fellow brothers & sisters in Christ!

**Proverbs 13:20 – “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”**

Can we truly declare to one another this morning, “You have a friend in me!” This is the script that God has written for us – to be a “church story”!

God is doing a good work of reconstructing us & He is using the Church to do it, will we be a friend like Jesus for one another, **“to infinity and beyond?”**

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