

A Brother is Born for Adversity

1 Jn 4:13 – *“By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”* Our Father sent our Master into the world to be our Savior. We can gauge how much we love our Master by how much we love the person who is the hardest for us to love. We *can* love to glorify our Master, not for our own selfish gain. There's *no higher love* than to lay down your life for your friends. It's that simple. He's hidden it from the big-minded, intellectual people. He only reveals it to those who are needy. We didn't have His love and then He revealed Himself to us and now we want to give back to Him what we've received. His love dwells in His Body.

Our Master said we're His friends if we do as He commands. If we don't we're an enemy; a friend to the evil one. We can know we've passed out of death and into life if we love our brothers. Let's *never forget* Pr 17:17 our whole lives – *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is **born** for adversity.”* That kind of love *never fails*. What is a friend? A friend loves at *all* times. That means when it's the hardest for you to love. What does it mean, *“...a brother is born for adversity?”* *Adversity* means a struggle, and we are brothers in it together; brothers born for adversity. Friends are allied in the same cause (struggles) together. If one suffers, all suffer. We don't want to see our brothers go through problems that could be solved just by us encouraging them.

Pr 18:24 says, *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”* “A man who has friends must himself be friendly.” That almost sounds silly, doesn't it? The word “friendly” in the world means a casual politeness. “Oh, hi, how are you doing?” But that's not what it's talking about. It's talking about friends that love you at all times and are friendly during your adverse times; your struggles. It means, “We're in it together.” There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Who is that? Our *friends* here in the Community. In the world, it's barely possible that your natural brother or sister would lay down their life for you. But in the Body of Messiah there should be no doubt about it. When we came into the Body we gave up our natural brothers and sister, husbands, wives, children and parents as it says in Mk 10:29-30 – and what did our Father give us? One hundred-fold. We leave our natural families behind as far as following them in their destinies and we receive one hundred-fold. We need to come to the knowledge of the truth about this. When are we going to come to the knowledge of the truth about this?

It's awkward to be around people when they react in their flesh. But if we're a true friend we'll stick by one another and forbear with each other and speak the truth in love. We have to get our brother out of the trap he's in. A brother is born to help you through adversity. We're born-again for adversity. A friend is born to love at all times; to be a help in our time of need.

We're coming to the knowledge of the truth. Heb 10:24 – “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” Heb 12:15 – “... looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.” Heb 3:13 – “But exhort one another daily while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” We *have* to stimulate and encourage one another. We need to speak words of strength (encouragement, affirmation) to our brother who is suffering, and not just one person going to him, but we all have to “hang on” to him and everyone *en-courage* him (give him courage). Otherwise we are sinning willfully. Are you ready to come to the knowledge of the truth about this and *grow* up? Babies have not come to the knowledge of the truth yet. But once we have come to the knowledge of the truth we can't see a brother downcast and walk right by him and not do something about it. When we have our eyeballs on ourselves we have them off of our Master. Then we don't have the confidence that we've passed out of death and into life. It's a big responsibility to come to the knowledge of the truth, but if we don't grow up in this way of encouraging each other we'll never be compatible to our Master.

When we *deliberately* go on sinning after we've come to the knowledge of the truth, we can't be forgiven because we didn't confess our sin of *not* loving our brothers and sisters. But if we confess our sins then He is faithful to cleanse us from all our sins if we judge ourselves rightly. But if we

continue to not judge ourselves and we're not confessing our sins and we enter into the breaking of bread then we are sinning a sin unto death.

We *ought* to lay down our lives for our brothers. We're *compelled* to do this. And someday we'll startle kings and they will shut their mouths. We'll shut up Satan for 1,000 years if we love one another and keep our Master's commands. He *has* to disclose Himself to us when we obey His commands. We can say, "Abba, I *want* to obey your commands." If we really mean this He'll disclose Himself to us and we'll be able to love our brothers. Our spirit needs to be engaged; highly motivated. If we stop loving we'll get over-familiar. Then we won't even notice one another. It's awful! Then love isn't produced and we just co-exist with one another. We can say, "Oh, that's just the way that brother is." "They are *always* going through that!" We can be that way; being over-familiar. We need to love. We *all* need and want love.

To ignore someone is the highest form of hatred! To *encourage* means that you impart "courage" to someone else — you're giving life to them. To do this it takes us taking our eyes off ourselves and onto our friends because our Master's love is in our brothers and we need one another.

Keli: It really spoke to me that a brother is *born* for adversity. If we realize our purpose; that that's what we were *born* to do — then we'll be there for each other in times of need. That's what it means that He's taking our heart of stone and giving us a heart of flesh.

Hahyeh: What we're hearing tonight reminds me of what I heard about how we have to go to our brother *before* they're on empty; before they run out of gas and are discouraged. Because if we wait until they're on empty to encourage them they'll never increase. They'll always be trying to get back to the same place. But that's how we're all going to increase — to go further than we are and encourage each other.

Roi: I'm so thankful for our Master — that I could give up my life and He could give me 100 fold — many, many brothers, sisters, mothers and on and on! He gives us so much! I'm thankful for eternal life.

Roi's story is amazing. He gave up his mother. He came to the Community when he was a little boy with his mother and then she left and took him with her. Every day he *begged* her to let him come back until he drove her *crazy* and finally she let him come back! He needs to write her a letter and thank her for letting him come back when he was still young. (It will heap coals on her head.)

There is a reward for those who give up their families. Our Master *loves* them because they're willing to do His will.