

FRIENDS

Friends patiently care for and wait for each other,
Rising to any occasion that demands attention in meeting a need.
In all situations bringing out the best in each,
Encouraging one another while facing the trials of life.
Never seeking one's self above the other,
Defending against all odds,
Standing tall while rejoicing in their mutual relationship.

Faithful in encouragement,
Ready to meet the test, always giving their best.
Inviting one another to share their lives,
Enabling each other to succeed in all their endeavors.
Night or day, always available for counsel,
Defeating all attempts, by others, to destroy their trust,
Shaping the direction of each other with a spirit of love.

Finding strength they didn't have as individuals,
Richly blessing each other with advice and integrity.
Insights are gained by common goals and interests,
Envisioning new heights of accomplishments.
Not keeping a record of rights or wrongs,
Developing a relationship that promotes openness,
Sharpener the countenance of each other for improvement.

Forgiveness for mistakes is always in their hearts,
Reacting with an agape type of love in all situations.
Inward thoughts are sensed before spoken,
Eager to love at all times, carrying on after the other is gone.
No power on earth can destroy their love,
Desiring nothing in return for kindness and help given,
Staying the course, even when life pulls them apart.

Frequently caring criticisms are given and received truthfully,
Rewarding friendships like this are rare and hard to find in life.
Inspiring each other to be honest in their relationship,
Efficiently picking up from where they were when they last met.
Neatly dovetailing one's strength with the other's weakness,
Devoting themselves to each other's best interest.
Sticking closer than a brother.

9/10/00
William C. Fordham