

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son, and His name is Immanuel. God gave us Jesus. The presence of Jesus in your life is a free gift from God. There is no amount of good you can do to earn the presence of Jesus. There is no number of good works you can perform to merit His favour. His presence in your life is a free gift. Because you did nothing to deserve His presence in your life, there is nothing you can do that will cause His presence to leave you. Once you have received Jesus into your heart, He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

When you fail, Jesus is right by your side to encourage you and restore you to wholeness. You may say: "But I don't deserve it!" That is correct. That is what makes it His unmerited favour in your life. There is a beautiful psalm that says: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand." (Psalm 37:23-24) When you fail, Jesus is there to uphold you. Unlike some of your so-called 'friends', He does not just take off. You can count on Him. He is a faithful, dependable, and trustworthy friend. Even when you have failed Him, He is right there with you, ready to pick you up and restore you to wholeness. The Bible talks about a friend who "sticks closer than a brother". That is Jesus! Lean on His constant presence, and draw on His unfailing strength and support.

Proverbs 18:24 "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."