

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

(words by **Joseph Medlicott Scriven** (1819-1886))

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,¹ take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.²

REFERENCES:

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- Richard Watson and Kenneth Trickett (editors), **Companion to Hymns & Psalms**. Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 1988.
- **BBC Songs of Praise**. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1997.
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¹ In the hymn book **Congregational Praise**, the first part of verse 3 line 2 reads '*Jesus only is our refuge*'.

² In some internet versions, there is an additional last verse:
*Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded, there will be no need for prayer -
Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.*