

## “My Best Friend”

“My best friend.” These are the words that have forever changed my parent’s home. As children growing up on the farm we had many animals. We were taught that animals belonged outside. The devoted farm dog who was part of the family was an exception though and she was allowed in the house. We occasionally got by with a caged hamster too, but that was as far as it went. No other animals were invited to live into the house. My adorable felines had to live outside-even the fluffy white ones. If a cat was found indoors it was immediately put outside where it apparently belonged. “Animals belong outside” has been the house rule for nearly fifty years.

Imagine my surprise last month to find a full grown tabby cat resting peacefully on top of a dresser. It was just an ordinary everyday barn cat- nothing special. We have lots of tabby cats on the farm, but they all live in the barn. One of them must have entered by mistake. It must have just walked in behind someone without their knowledge. It definitely had to go back outside where cats belong-so I thought.

As I gathered the cat in my arms to put it outside I was informed otherwise. My mom told me that Pap was now allowing this cat inside. Earlier that week my three year old nephew, Tony, had told Pap that this cat was his “best friend.” Since this cat was given “best friend” status by their grandson it has earned all kinds of privileges. You never know where you’ll find it curled up. It may sleep in a suitcase, in a laundry basket, on the couch beside you or anywhere else it opts to nap. It often just sits close to where Tony is watching television. Remember, this tabby cat is “Tony’s best friend.”

This tabby knows that it is special. It confidently walks in and out of the house to suit itself. It even expects you to be courteous and to hold the door for it. Tony’s best friend brushes by any of the barn cats visiting on the porch and gains full access to a three story home. I guess that is the access you have at Pap and Grammy’s home when you’re

“Tony’s best friend.”

This cat got me to thinking about the status of best friend and privileges. Did you know we can actually be considered a “friend of God?” **James 2:23 “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called a friend of God.**

You see, as a friend we too have all sorts of privileges. We don't have to have a special pedigree or be exceptionally beautiful to go to heaven. Jesus just has to be our best friend and savior. Just as Tony spoke on the tabby's behalf to give it access to the house, Jesus speaks on our behalf to give us access to heaven as our home. Actually, Jesus gives us access to a storehouse in the here and now too.

**1 John 5:14-15 (NIV) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.**

This status has another privilege too. It gives us authority. *Luke 10:19 NLT* says “*Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy....*” *Wow that is power!*

Sadly many are like the farm cats. These individuals don't enjoy the special privileges of the believer. Unfortunately, they do not realize that they are welcome inside only if they make Jesus their Savior. These individuals may try to sneak in, but without Jesus they will be tossed back outside just like the barn cats. Scripture tells us in John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus *answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

***I urge you to make Jesus your Savior and best friend today! He wants you in His house!***