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## **Friends, the Family We Choose**

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*We all have relatives, co-workers and acquaintances that play a role in shaping our daily lives. However, it is that core of real friends that makes life both possible and worthwhile. Some of your relatives may fall into that category. Hopefully the one most important person in your life; be it spouse, fiancée or partner; is a key member of that core. We sometimes use the title of friend to mean acquaintance or anyone whose name we know or someone we acknowledge as we pass in the hall. For me the word friend has a very special meaning that I would like to share in three parts.*

*A friend is the one that holds your wallet when you jump in the lake on that blistering hot summer day. You trust them totally not only with your "stuff", but with your feelings and most intimate thoughts. If you think about the other things of no monetary value that are in your wallet, you will understand the symbolism. However this is only a minimum standard for consideration. Why would you want anyone in your life that you didn't trust?*

*If I needed my friend's help, would they willingly help me? Within their ability to help, would they help or look for an excuse. If your car was broken down on a lonely highway at midnight, would they get out of their warm bed, put on their winter clothes and come to your rescue? Obviously, if it were impossible for some reason they might offer an alternative. If they don't have a car, calling a taxi is an alternative, suggesting that you wake someone else is not. Impossible does not mean inconvenient!!!!*

*If I needed my friend's help, would I ask? The third test has always been the hardest for me. Knowing that my friend would help me is very comforting. Actually, asking for their help can be very traumatic. I must disclose my own vulnerability or inadequacy to ask for help. Do you remember how hard it was in High School math class to raise your hand to ask a question, when you were sure everyone else understood?*

*I have been blessed through out my life with a core of these very special friends. We have helped each other through the minefield that life sometimes becomes. We have shared the triumphs and tragedies. I think I may have found someone else who might be joining that special group. All I can say is WOW!*

Harry Gribnitz

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*PS: Thank you for your continued support of my business by referring friends, relatives and co-workers who might need my help.*