

STAYING POWER OF LASTING FRIENDSHIP
“got friends?”
Easter 2009

God: *“I will show you my love forever. So says the Lord who saves you.”*
Isaiah 54:8 (TEV)

“I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you.” John 15:12 (NLT)

“Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.” 1 Cor. 13:7 (GW)

1. LASTING FRIENDSHIP EXTENDS GRACE

“Love never stops being patient” 1 Cor. 13:7a (GW)

“...puts up with anything” (MSG)

“... patiently accepts all things” (NCV)

“...is always ready to make allowances” (NJB)

“Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.” Eph. 4:2 (NLT)

2. LASTING FRIENDSHIP EXPRESSES FAITH

“Love never stops believing” 1 Cor. 13:7b (GW)

“...always trusts” (NIV)

“... never loses faith” (NLT)

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

3. LASTING FRIENDSHIP EXPECTS THE BEST

“Love never stops hoping” 1 Cor. 13:7c (GW)

“...always expects the best” (LB)

“...always looks for the best” (MSG)

4. LASTING FRIENDSHIP EDURES THE WORST

“Love never gives up” 1 Cor. 13:7d (GW)

“...endures through every circumstance” (NLT)

“...always perseveres” (NIV)

“...never looks back, but keeps going to the end” (MSG)