

Fellowship with God

Genesis 18:1-15

"Abraham is called 'the friend of God' three times in Scripture. On one occasion, when the armies of Maob and Ammon had invaded Judah, Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of the people before the temple in Jerusalem and, based on his earlier promise to the nation's fathers, asked God for deliverance: "O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?" (2 Chron. 20:7). Another passage says this: 'The Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend' (James 2:23). Most significant is Isaiah 41:8, where God himself says, 'but you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend... If this incident from the life of Abraham [in Genesis 18] says nothing else to us, it should at least say that God desires to be a friend to us and have us be friends to him. If we are not his friends, it is not God's reluctance or inaccessibility that is the problem, it is our sin. " Boice

- I. God chose Abraham to fulfill his will concerning not only the birth of His Son Jesus Christ, but also in the bringing forth of the nation of Israel. His relationship with Abraham was not as one who was merely used by Him to fulfill His will, but Instead, He chose to relate to Abraham as a companion and confidant. He did this by opening Abraham's heart to his grace, kindness, mercy, loving care and powerful influence. When God changed his name, He was letting him know that God Almighty was giving him a part of Himself. In response, Abraham fell face down before Him with a willing heart to do whatever He wanted him to do. His response was one of gratitude, awe, and thanksgiving. He truly was God's friend, and we are too, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his great mercy. Our salvation instantaneously made us Christ's friend, and with that, we too should bow down with humble appreciation and say, whatever you want Lord, I will do.

Genesis 18:1-2

Gen. 17:1-3; 15-22

Eph. 2:13

John 14:21

Col. 2:11-14

John 15:14-16 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

- II. The spontaneous response Abraham had when he saw three strangers standing under the oak trees speaks of why God considered him His friend. As His friend, God chose to fellowship with him in a very special covenant confirming way through a meal. He took on human appearance as Christ Himself (Christophany), to communicate to him in a very heartwarming way that his faithful hope in the promise of a child would finally be fulfilled. The intimate fellowship and joy of friends supping together, speaks of what we can look forward to because of our friendship with Jesus. His desire to share the joy of His presence with friends supping together was seen many times throughout His ministry on earth. It was seen at the Last Supper, and it will be seen when we finally sit down with Him at the marriage supper of the Lamb to eat, laugh and enjoy His glorious presence amazed at what we've been given because of our salvation.

Gen 18:1-8

Matt 23:37

Heb. 13:1-2

Matt 25:35-40

Psalm 68:6

Psalm 146:9

Rev. 3:20

Rev. 19:6-9

- III. God loved Sarah. Unfortunately, her relationship with Him remained shallow and unproductive because of the disillusionment and bitterness that came from seeing her situation of being childless go from frustration to complete hopelessness. Consequently, her circumstances ruled her heart more than her love for the Lord. God was not toying with her emotions, nor was He being cruel in any way. Instead, He was teaching her a powerful lesson meant for all of us to learn, and it's that circumstances are not to rule our relationship with Almighty God. If they do, then our trust in Him is nothing more than a mere empty thought, void of any kind of the peace, comfort, and joy that only true friendship with Him can bring.

Gen. 18:9-15

Jer. 29:11

1 John 5:10

Jeremiah 31:27 *"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. It there anything too hard for Me?"*