

Becoming a Friend of God: Learning from the Story of Abraham

Here are some key concepts from the story of Abraham:

- 1) Abraham was described as a “friend” of God – wow! (Read James 2:20-23; also God referred to “Abraham my friend” when talking with the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 41:8; King Jehoshaphat when speaking to God in 2 Chron 20:7 referred to “Abraham your friend”).
- 2) Abraham’s life showed that he “feared” God (had reverential trust and respect), had faith in Him and obeyed (did works) when God asked. The great test of Abraham’s fear, trust and obedience/works came in the test of sacrificing his son Isaac (read Genesis 15:1-6, 17:1-8, 21:1-5, 34; 22:1-18). Some key points from the story:

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(Note: we can get some insight into Abraham’s thinking from Hebrews 11:17-19).

- 3) Based on Abraham’s story and example we can learn the following formula to help us become a special “friend” of God:

Fear God + Faith + Works (Obedience) = God’s Friend

- 4) Abraham was God’s friend even though he was imperfect like you and me! Couple of examples:
 - a) Abraham married and impregnated his wife’s maidservant Hagar (son Ishmael was born when Abraham was 86 years old). See Genesis 16:1-4.
 - b) When Abraham was concerned for his life after moving into a new area, he lied and had his wife pretend to be his sister and allowed King Abimelech to take her for himself (good news: God intervened and prevented a disaster). See Genesis 20.

BONUS: Psalms 103

A great Psalm about building a better relationship with God, based on the same basic formula above:

Praise God (faith in who God is and how much He loves us) + **Fear God + Obedience (works)**