

# A Friend of God

## (God's Principles of Friendship)

### I. Friendship Is A Two Way Street

**Gen 18:1** And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

**Gen 18:2** And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

**Gen 18:3** And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

**Gen 18:4** Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

**Gen 18:5** And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

**Gen 18:6** And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth.

**Gen 18:7** And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave *it* unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it.

**Gen 18:8** And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set *it* before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

**Gen 18:9** And they said unto him, Where *is* Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

**Gen 18:10** And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard *it* in the tent door, which *was* behind him.

**Gen 18:11** Now Abraham and Sarah *were* old *and* well stricken in age; *and* it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

**Gen 18:12** Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

**Gen 18:13** And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

**Gen 18:14** Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

**Gen 18:15** Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

**Gen 18:16** And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

**Gen 18:17** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

**Gen 18:18** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

**Gen 18:19** **For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do**

**justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.**

## Foundation Scriptures:

**Pro 18:24** A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

**Joh 15:13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

**Joh 15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

**Joh 15:16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

**Jas 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

**Can you name other things in this story that are a part of being in a “Friendship” with someone?**

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## II. Friendship Has Privileges

**Gen 18:20** And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

**Gen 18:21** I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

**Gen 18:22** And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

**Gen 18:23** And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

**Gen 18:24** Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein?

**Gen 18:25** That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

**Gen 18:26** And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

**Gen 18:27** And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am but* dust and ashes:

**Gen 18:28** Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for *lack of* five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy *it*.

**Gen 18:29** And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do *it* for forty's sake.

**Gen 18:30** And he said *unto him*, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do *it*, if I find thirty there.

**Gen 18:31** And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for twenty's sake.

**Gen 18:32** And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.

**Gen 18:33** And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

## Foundation Scriptures:

**Joh 15:1** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

**Joh 15:2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

**Joh 15:3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

**Joh 15:4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

**Joh 15:5** I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**Joh 15:6** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

**Joh 15:7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

**Joh 15:8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

**Joh 15:15** Henceforth *I call you not servants*; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: *but I have called you friends*; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

**Can you name privileges in this story that are a result of being in a “Friendship” with someone?**

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