

God's Friend

Genesis 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; 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, 3 And **said, My Lord,** if now **I have found favour** in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a **little water,** I pray you, be fetched, and **wash your feet,** and **rest yourselves** under the tree: 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. 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. 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. 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. 9 And they said unto him, Where *is* Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the

tent. 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. 11 Now **Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased** to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 Therefore **Sarah laughed within herself,** saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 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. 15 Then **Sarah denied,** saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. 17 And the Lord said, **Shall I hide from Abraham** that thing which I do; 18 **Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?** 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. 20 And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 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. 22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but **Abraham stood yet before the Lord.** 23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 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? 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?** 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. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, **which am but dust and ashes:** 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*. 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. 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. 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. 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.** 33 And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

- Abraham is the only person in the Bible who is called God's friend II Chronicles 20:7 *Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?* Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob

whom I have chosen, **The seed of Abraham my friend.** James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

1. Serving God Genesis 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;
 - a. Meant great personal effort and involvement
Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
 - i. Abraham will personally run, bow, speak, and serve God and them men or angels that come from God 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, 3 And **said, My Lord,** if now **I have found**

favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a **little water**, I pray you, be fetched, and **wash your feet**, and **rest yourselves** under the tree:

ii. Abraham is a very rich man, used to be served but gets up to serve

iii. Abraham bows toward the ground

iv. Abraham runs to get his wife to prepare food 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. 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.

v. Abraham picks out the calf 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.

b. Abraham realizes that it means he has found favor, grace for God to speak to him 3 **And said, My Lord**, if now **I have found favour** in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

- c. Abraham humbly stands by in respect as they eat **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.
- d. Abraham got very personally involved even in the heat and even though he was wealthy
- e. We should consider how involved we get in serving others, especially serving God and worshipping
 - i. The person that has arrived is the Lord, it is a pre incarnate appearance of Jesus
 - ii. Had Abraham not had the custom of practicing hospitality he might have missed this blessing
 - iii. But surely when he knew who it was he got more excited
 - iv. Are you living a life of service to God and others
- f. You never know when you entertain strangers if you might be entertaining an angel **Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

- i. Hospitality is part of Christian ministry **Romans 12:13**
Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
- ii. We should be hospitable with a good attitude
I Peter 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.
- iii. Men of God are to be hospitable **I Timothy 3:2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- iv. Men of God are to love being hospitable **Titus 1:8** But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;
- v. We are being hospitable to the Lord, we are serving Him **Matthew 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and **ye gave me** drink: I was a stranger, and **ye took me in:** **36** Naked, and **ye clothed me:** I was sick, and **ye visited me:** I was in prison, and **ye came unto me.** **37** Then shall the

righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.**

- vi. Great practice to have with God's men who have given their lives to serve Him 3 John 5-8 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest **to the brethren, and to strangers;** 6 which have borne **witness of thy charity** before the church: whom if thou bring **forward on their journey after a godly sort,** thou shalt do well: 7 because that **for his name's sake they went forth,** taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be **fellowhelpers to the truth.**

2. Seeing God work

- a. The time has come for God to do what He promised **9** *And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 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.
- b. Circumstances were evidence that God's promise would not be fulfilled **11** *Now **Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased*** to be with Sarah after the manner of women.
- c. Sarah can't avoid her doubts **12** *Therefore **Sarah laughed within herself,*** saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?
 - i. She has heard for years that she was going to get pregnant
 - ii. She had tried to believe
 - iii. She had tried to honor God at great sacrifice to herself
 - iv. She had tried to be a good wife
 - v. It just seemed like too much at this time
- d. Abraham is reminded how powerful God is **13** *And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh,*

saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? **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. **15** Then **Sarah denied**, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, **Nay; but thou didst laugh.**

- i. God can be trusted always
- ii. We make promises and don't keep them
- iii. He keeps his promises even when we are faithless

II Timothy 2:13 *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

3. Abraham's relationship with the Lord **16** **And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. 17** **And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham** that thing which I do; **18** **Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 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.

- a. God wanted to show Abraham what He was going to do
16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. 17 And the Lord said, **Shall I hide from Abraham** that thing which I do;
- b. God knew that He was going to do great and wonderful things in Abraham's life 18 **Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**
- c. God knew what kind of leader, dad, and husband Abraham was going to be 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.
- d. God knew that He was going to do great things in Abraham's life 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.

4. Intercessory prayer **20** And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; **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. **22** And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but **Abraham stood yet before the Lord.**

- a. Abraham had a great relationship with God
- b. Abraham was close enough to God that God would reveal things to him
- c. This prayer wasn't like a last ditch effort or something Abraham wasn't used to doing
- d. Abraham had an open and fearless relationship with the God of Heaven
- e. Abraham who was not in the middle of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah gets a visit from God

- i. Not the man who was immersed in sin
 - ii. Living in the world
 - iii. Caught up in the world's way of doing things
 - iv. God speaks to and guides those that take time to seek Him and seek to be separate from sin
- f. Abraham's prayer is to save Lot and his family **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?**
- g. Abraham knows that God is just and will destroy the wicked but didn't want to see Lot get hurt in the process
- h. God doesn't want to see anyone die, not even the wicked **Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?**
- i. Look what a difference even a small amount of believers could have made in this city **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.**

- i. Are we being light and salt
- ii. Are we influencing others for Christ and truth
- iii. Are we living out our faith
- iv. Does our living in a city make a difference in spiritual and eternal things