

THE FRIEND OF GOD



Abraham. *Father of Nations*. His name immediately evokes images of faith, sacrifice and devotion to a God that most of the world in his day never knew. But the Bride of Jesus Christ can benefit greatly from looking at an aspect of Abraham's life that few people pause to consider: Abraham is one of the very few individuals whom God specifically called, "*My friend*." (*Isaiah 41:8*).

What an honour! What a wonderful testimony for the God who created all things to specifically single one man in the whole world, and call him, "*My friend*."

Now what does this mean? First, it shows that God had confidence in Abraham—a confidence He demonstrated when He visited Abraham before the destruction of Sodom (Gen. 19:19). Secondly it meant that God and Abraham had a unique relationship that set him apart. Now this demonstration of a friendship between God and His creation should dramatically strengthen the faith of the Bride around the world. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise," reads Galatians 3:29.

Each member of the Bride should expect to receive the same blessings that our father Abraham received. After all, we expect God to change our bodies as He prefigured in Abraham—why limit the extent of His blessings? If God will change your body from a fallen state to a glorified state, why can He not reveal His secrets to you as He did Abraham? Why can He not commune and visit you as He did Abraham? He has already sent a messenger to make known His secrets to the Bride {Bro. William Branham}. But a life that is fully surrendered to Christ is limitless in its potential.

Now Abraham was no extraordinary person from the outward appearance. He was raised in a pagan home but one thing set him apart-**he had an individual experience with God that no one else in the world could claim.** Abraham talked to God and God communed with His friend.

This shows us that the Children of Abraham must:

- 1.) Have an individual experience with God {friendship} (Gen. 12:7)
- 2.) Display the same confidence in Christ that Abraham displayed. (Gal. 3:6)
- 3.) Live completely separate from the things of the world (Gen. 12:1, 1John 2:15)

We are not called to simply be a religious sect or order, but to be the Bride of Jesus Christ exemplifying by our lives, our testimony, our very natures the essence of who Jesus Christ really is.

Another lesson we can learn from this great patriarch is his obedience. Although he often provoked God, Abraham's heart always yearned to believe and do exactly what God required. He loved to please this God who called Him, "friend."

Now Abraham is not alone in His friendship with the Most High; Christ in speaking to His disciples throughout the ages said the following just before His crucifixion: "Ye are my friends if ye do whatever I command you," (John 15:14). Friendship with God *is* attainable and is a must for the Bride. Christ is not taking unto Himself a stranger; His people, His Wife is also His friend.

In closing, let us consider: are we on friendship terms with God like this great patriarch Abraham? If not, don't exclude yourself from the greatest relationship that spans both time and eternity-**become a friend of God today.**