

# CAN I BE A FRIEND OF GOD?

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ENCOUNTERING GOD SERIES



- 2 Chronicles 20.7 *Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?*
- Isaiah 41:8 “But you, Israel, *are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.*
- James 2:23 “...Abraham believed God, and God accepted Abraham’s faith, and that faith made him right with God.” And Abraham was called God’s friend.

The Lord says, “Will I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the LORD asked. “For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.” GENESIS 18:17-19

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- So the LORD told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. <sup>21</sup> I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know.” Genesis 18.20-21

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- And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. Gen 15.16

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. <sup>2</sup> Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents.

<sup>13</sup> *All these people died* still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. <sup>14</sup> Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. <sup>16</sup> But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

<sup>39</sup> All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. <sup>40</sup> For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us. Hebrews 11. 1-2, 8-15, 39-40



THE  
JOY  
OF  
READING  
THE  
WORD



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- On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’<sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’ Matthew 7.22-23



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I no longer call you servants, I call you friends. John 15.15

For I desire *and* delight in [steadfast] loyalty [faithfulness in the covenant relationship], rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. Hosea 6.6