

Introduction:

- How do I become a friend of God? How does that work? How does one become friends with the creator of the world? It is like asking how do I become friends with the President.
- I want to answer that by looking at two men in the scripture. I want to look at two men of whom the word ‘friendship’ was applied to how they related to God.
 - *“And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.”* (James 2:23, NKJV) Gr - Phileo
 - *“So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”* (Exodus 33:11, NKJV) Hebrew - rea- friend, companion, confidant.
- Two answers you may readily begin thinking on are: Two T’s. Time and Trust.
 - Time. Neither Abraham nor Moses earned the friendship card up front. It took time to GROW to that status. When we read the two passages above, those are written looking back. I am a better friend of my wife now than I was at the beginning.
 - Secondly, the place of friendship is one of trust and that trust works both ways.
 - God does His part in relating to us through Covenant because He is so great.
 - I do my part in relating to Him through faith. I am trusting in His greatness. Many people want to do their part in relating to God through obedience. But obedience that does not come through faith is like a compliant rebel. “Sure, I am obeying but not with my heart.” And what do you do if you happen to fail, sin, disobey? Faith lets me obey with my heart and passes me when I fail because I am trusting in His greatness not my weakness.
- Let us compare the journey of Abraham and Moses and how they encountered Him along the way, that eventually brought them to the place of friendship with God.

1. **Both Abraham and Moses Knew God as Yahweh.** Tetragrammaton - YHEWH - Lord, I Am.

- a. Names reveal character. And character allows me to trust or not trust. It is the most personal name of God and the most frequently used in scripture. “God’s name identifies his nature, so that a request for his “name” is equivalent to asking about his character.”¹
 - i. *“Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?””* (Exodus 3:13, NKJV) It is asking of the character of your God. To which God answers, “I Am who I Am!” When answered in third person, “He is!”
 - ii. *“That is, the Lord God of hosts. The Lord (Yahweh) is His memorable name.”* (Hosea 12:5, NKJV)
 - iii. In Gen 18 Abraham refers to Him as Lord ‘*adon*’ and when God speaks of himself it is (YHEWH).
- b. Both of them began to know God as the God who is! So immediately they are acknowledging his greatness. Abram obeys in what seems to be immediately. Moses takes off his shoes because he knew the ground was holy, not because he was there, but because I Am was there. I believe they are shocked by His greatness just like we all are when we first come to know Him. So God introduces himself. This is the first step in becoming a friend of God. Introductions!

2. **The second thing that happens is that they both believe God.**

- a. They believe God and trust Him. And because God is so great, He does something special with each man. He introduces them to Covenant. Genesis 15, and 17. Moses (circumcision of son) Ex 4:25 and at Sinai And these covenants are to let them know that they can trust Him.

¹ Payne, J. B. (1999). 484 . (R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke, Eds.)*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press.

- b. Each man excelled in faith.
 - i. That faith led to radical action on their part because of who God is.
 1. Abram left home for a new land.
 2. Moses went back home to get God's people.
 3. Both were heading to the Land of Promise.
 - ii. Here is where the journey of the two men gets interesting.
 1. Abraham prevailed in faith through obedience. Gen 15:6 and finished with Isaac on the altar.
 2. Moses failed in faith through disobedience. *“Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.””* (Numbers 20:12, NKJV) But yet he shows up at the transfiguration in righteous apparel. Mt 17:3
3. **They both become righteous because of that faith.** We see it at the end of their lives.
 - a. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness. Gen 15:6 & Ro 4:22
 - b. We see Moses transfigured with Jesus on the mountain yet he was initially disqualified because of disobedience. Mt 17:3
 - c. *“The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.”* (Galatians 3:7, NLT)
 - d. *“So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.”* (Galatians 3:9, NLT)
 - e. *“So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.””* (Galatians 3:11, NLT)
 - f. *“... For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.”* (Philippians 3:9, NLT)
4. **Therefore It is out of righteousness that they become friends of God.**

Conclusion:

- So what do I learn about God through this?
 - First, Heb 11:6 Faith pleases Him and we know we are in faith when we are acting on what we know about God and what He has said to us.
 - Secondly, He knows all about me, but I am always learning about Him. Abraham did not understand God when He left Ur of Chaldea's but He learned all about God as He obeyed in faith. Trusting in God's Greatness.
 - Somewhere in the mix of me knowing about Him and He knowing all about me friendship grows.