

Abraham Was Visited by God Himself (Part 1): Growing Faith — How to Be a Friend of God Genesis 18: 1–15

1. *The Lord appeared and sought Abraham's friendship*

2. *Abraham sat, bowed his head, and meditated*

3. *Abraham served and met the needs of people*

a. He looked and noticed three men nearby

b. He ran, was eager to meet people

c. He bowed, was courteous

d. He sought to help and spend time with them:
Showed hospitality

1) Offered water:
For cleansing and refreshment

2) Offered rest

3) Offered food

e. He involved his wife in serving

f. He gave the best he had (veal, a young calf)

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way — now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.

g. He served the men himself:
Became personally involved

h. He demonstrated humility:
Stood nearby like a servant

**4. *Abraham was to believe
the great promise of God:
The promised seed***

- a. Concerned Abraham's wife
as well as himself
- b. The absolute certainty
of the promise:
The LORD Himself would
return — perform a miracle —
and give Sarah a son

**5. *Abraham and Sarah
had to conquer unbelief***

- a. The causes of unbelief
 - 1) Sarah was beyond
child-bearing years
 - 2) Sarah allowed
negative thoughts
- b. The answer to unbelief
 - 1) God's omniscience,
His knowledge of all things:
Knew about Sarah's unbelief
 - 2) God's omnipotence,
His power:
Nothing is too hard for God
- c. The conquest of unbelief, v. 15
 - 1) Sarah lied, denied her guilt
 - 2) God demanded confession
and repentance

8 He then brought some curds and milk
and the calf that had been prepared,
and set these before them.
While they ate,
he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.
"There, in the tent," he said.

10 Then one of them said,
"I will surely return to you
about this time next year,
and Sarah your wife will have a son."
Now Sarah was listening
at the entrance to the tent,
which was behind him.

11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old,
and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought,
"After I am worn out and my lord is old,
will I now have this pleasure?"

13 Then the LORD said to Abraham,
"Why did Sarah laugh and say,
'Will I really have a child,
now that I am old?'"

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD?
I will return to you at the appointed time
next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah was afraid,
so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."
But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."