

# Abraham: Friend of God

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

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Day 1 – Message

Day 2

God desires your friendship! From the first day He walked in the garden with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8-9) God has been seeking to build friendship with every person who ever lived. That is an amazing statement. God, who created the universe – and you – wants to be your friend.

For me personally the whole concept of “friendship” with God is not easy to grasp. Friends are close, they share life together and they are transparent about the every day situations of life. God wants this kind of relationship with you! James 2:23 declares that Abraham was called the “friend of God.” How could that be? More important, how can it be true for you and for me?

Our journey together in the next 31 days will help us discover how to live in divine friendship with God – just like Abraham. I’m convinced learning about Abraham’s own spiritual journey will spur us on in our own walk with God. Abraham was very human, very honest and very transparent with God. He made some very bold leadership decisions. But he also made some major blunders. His story will build your own confidence to be God’s friend.

OK. Let’s get started with our foundational verse to learn about friendship. Take a few minutes to think through and meditate on these words from Psalm 25:14 NLT:  
*“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

Day 3  
Leave and Go

Abraham's first encounter with the God of heaven set the stage for their friendship. The story unfolds (Genesis 11:31 – 12:3) with an amazing request and an unprecedented promise. At the time Abraham's father and extended family had settled halfway between their past (Ur) and their future (Canaan). In other words, they "settled" before reaching their destiny.

God's first comment to Abraham is startlingly different than the beginnings of every other friendship I have experienced. There was no give and take, no compromise and no meeting in the middle to find things in common. This was to be a divine friendship with an eternal destiny. God expected complete loyalty and ultimate allegiance from Abraham, while promising a destiny of total fulfillment.

*"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1)*

If the story stopped there, our image of God might be harsh and unrealistically demanding. But the next verses contain a promise so vast and powerful that it has, through the life of one man, shaped entire races, religions and civilizations.

*I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*  
(Genesis 12:2-3)

It is a simple proposition. God is saying, IF you will transfer your allegiance and expectations of fulfillment to a relationship with me, THEN I will shape your destiny with promise and blessing. What a challenge! God was challenging Abraham out of his own comfort and thrusting him into the unknown. And the promise was equally daunting...IF he would chart into the unknown with God, THEN God would choose to work through Abraham to accomplish His divine plan.

This is the beginning of friendship with God. Yes it is costly, but within the cost is a destiny that opens us up to be used powerfully by God.

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## Day 4 Worship

How do you respond to a personal RSVP from God?

Needless to say for Abraham, God's request demanded a response. No other person on earth had received such an invitation. It required everything from Abraham and yet held within it the promise of an authentic relationship with God that contained the secondary blessings of provision and generosity. What an offer!

I can imagine that God's invitation left Abraham in quite a quandary. He was a man of means and from a family of significance. God was asking Abraham to leave what his senses could measure for the mystery of a relationship with the Creator God. At one level the choice may seem obvious, but the practical response of leaving what you can measure for a life with the infinite and ultimately unknowable God was probably not easy.

Granted the accompanying promise was outstanding:

*"I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples [ethnic groups] on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:3*

But there was an enormous amount left out of the invitation. God didn't provide any doctrinal guidelines about what to believe. He provided no clarification on where would Abraham should live. What about his career path? The pleasures of life? And children, where did they fit into the picture? It seems that the obvious vagueness to the request had a purpose. The invitation was really about one thing and one thing alone: God wanted to be in relationship with Abraham.

The only way forward with God was to leave what was comfortable for the unknown. "So Abraham left as the Lord had told him." (Genesis 12:4) In the words of this verse you and I can find Abraham's RSVP. It is called obedience. He left. Plain and simple. The draw to a real ongoing relationship with God outpaced the tantalizing temptations of his own comforts.

Abraham's obedience attracted God's presence. They met again and God promised the Land to Abraham's children (Genesis 12:7). This was all the proof that Abraham needed. He had heard the call to a relationship with the one real and true God. When He obeyed God responded. So then, did Abraham – he worshipped the God who met him on the journey and was faithful to His promise.

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Day 5  
Being There!

For me the story of Abraham is filled with amazing surprises. First, God initiates a friendship with Abraham, rather than Abraham earning His favor. Second, God extends the promise of a blessing without a season of “pre-qualifying” Abraham. Next, Abraham’s response to obey was the first step to an authentic relationship with the living Creator.

But an even bigger surprise occurs in Genesis 12:7:

*“The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “To your offspring I will give this land. So Abraham built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.”*

In response to Abraham’s obedience God takes the first step required by any authentic relationship. God comes and “appears” before Abraham. This word “appear” has the connotation of both “seeing” and “being seen.” God guarantees His promise to Abraham not by His Word or His covenant, but by His very presence. Friendship with God is built upon the authenticity of His personal presence that extends beyond circumstances and earthly possessions. It’s not hard to imagine the incredible emotional high Abraham must have felt as he constructed the altar. The God of the whole universe was choosing to be in relationship with Him.

The Bible says that God has not changed, that He is the “*same yesterday, today and forever.*” (*Hebrews 13:8*) When you and I choose to obey, God chooses to fulfill His promise not merely with things or words, but with His very presence.

To Abraham, God gave an assurance of His faithfulness. Since God desires a real relationship with you, He is not hiding or hard to find. In fact the opposite is true. God is the one who sees and who can be seen.

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Day 6  
When Crisis Comes Listen and Look Up

In a strange twist of events after God miraculously appears to Abraham (Genesis 12:7-8), the next three scenes are filled with famine, marital crisis and enormous family strife. God seems to be driving a point home to Abraham that real blessing will not be material but a deep and personal friendship with God.

In the first two scenes we see Abraham responding to crises by taking matters into His own hands. Abraham was a man of means and his life demonstrates an ability to manage and grow the financial blessings given to him. But at this stage in Abraham's life God seems to be more interested in establishing the ground rules for a divine friendship than extending Abraham's wealth.

Since the days when Abraham was instructed to "leave and go" you can see a pattern emerging in His life. When he obeys, God appears. When he takes matters into his own hands he is left to solve the problem with his own strength. In fact, re-reading the stories of Abraham's life can sometimes be like staring into a mirror!

When famine descends, Abraham, not God, takes the initiative to leave the place of promise and go to Egypt. Forced to survive on his own, Abraham is next confronted by the reality of living as a minority in someone else's territory. Rather than wait on God to appear in the midst of this situation, Abraham contrives a story about his wife being his sister setting in motion all kinds of problems!

By the time these two disasters work their way through, another "opportunity" is presented to the man known as a friend of God. Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his men are creating dissension within the larger family. Full of gentility and a sense of family unity, Abraham offers a choice to his much younger nephew. Lot demands what he can naturally see and leaves his uncle with the leftovers of a desert region.

What is Abraham to do? This time, he chooses not take matters into his own hands and listens. A familiar voice soon echoes through the heavens. It is the divine friendship at work and Abraham is instructed again by this God who "sees" and can be "seen" to look up. It is a moment when the eternal perspective is imparted into the natural eye.

*"Lift up your eyes from where you are...all that you [now] see I will give to you and your offspring forever" (Genesis 13:14-15).*

Abraham is delivered from his crisis not by his own wit, but through waiting on the God who appears. By tuning his ears to the voice of God, looking with spiritual eyes Abraham re-captures friendship with God and is given the protection to extend the borders of His influence.

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Day 7  
Giving

Abraham moved his family into the land promised to him by God, and he prospered by God's hand. In fact, when his nephew Lot and all his possessions were captured, Abraham's family had the strength to defeat several kings and their soldiers routing them all the way to Damascus! Returning home with spoils of victory Abraham met Melchizedek, the King of Jerusalem and "priest of God Most High." Melchizedek blessed Abraham saying:

*"Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High who delivered your enemies into your hand."  
(Genesis 14:18-20)*

The Old Testament does not tell us much about Melchizedek except that he was a person of incredible responsibility and influence. It's the first time in the Bible that we are introduced to a priest and a representative of God. And his first words are, "I can see Abraham that you are blessed by God, that He sees you! He has delivered your enemies into your hand." Abraham must have had the evidence of God on his life.

Abraham responds to this remarkable statement by giving one tenth of the spoils to the priest. Why? It was a signal of ownership. Abraham knew that his own life was entrusted into the hands of a divine friendship and to prove this allegiance he gave back a "tithe" or the best portion of what he had received to God.

Abraham was sealing a friendship with God by acknowledging the source of incredible favor and by demonstrating his worship to others. Giving re-positions us to be ready for an eternal friendship and testifies to those around us that the very source of our life depends on God and not our own ingenuity.

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## Day 8 – Message

Day 9  
Honor

The favor of a divine friendship with God and the valor of Abraham's faithfulness yielded a spectacular victory for Lot and the King of Sodom. Now the King felt obligated to pay respect to Abraham for freeing his city. He generously offered to Abraham all the goods of his city – a generous and reasonable reward for a labor of such risk:

*“The King of Sodom said to Abraham, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.” (Genesis 14:21)*

However, receiving such a reward would forever testify to others that by the hand of Abraham a victory was won. Even though it would “put food on the table,” by this time Abraham also knows that it would also be a slap in the face of his friendship with the Almighty. True friends never take credit for the work of another. Abraham decided to trust God for His provision and graciously replied:

*“I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abraham rich’.” (Genesis 14:21-23)*

On the stage where rewards are passed out and accolades are given, Abraham's covenant oath of friendship with God surpasses an honest offer of provision. He chooses to honor God and their divine relationship rather than take the credit himself. What does he get in return? A friendship with God and a covenant of blessing that is indestructible.

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Day 10  
God Talks

Friends trust one another. When God saw Abraham's response to victory in battle (Genesis 14) He was pleased. He took note of His friend's commitment to honor the friendship by giving a tithe to Melchizedek and publicly declaring that all of his blessings had come from God.

Once God sees that Abraham is a loyal friend and can be trusted with divine friendship He takes the initiative to speak with Abraham in a vision.

*"Do not be afraid, Abraham. I am your shield, your very great reward." (Genesis 15:1)*

God's desire is to reveal His purposes and his secrets to those who can be trusted. He brings revelation and assurance to the relationship once Abraham confirms that his mouth, his mind and his actions are faithful.

May God see the same in us!

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Day 11  
God Listens

The real value in every friendship is a deep, long lasting relationship. For God and Abraham the foundation of a trusted friendship creates the space for God to speak and the freedom for Abraham to respond.

A divine friendship with God provides the opportunity for authentic feedback. What an incredible difference Abraham experienced from his peers. They all spoke to idols made of wood or metal, but Abraham listen to and spoke with the true and living God!

After God says, *“I am your shield, your very great reward”* Abraham responds, *“O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless?”* (Genesis 15:2-3). Abraham’s feedback was real. He was saying, ‘God I fear you, I trust your word, but I can’t honestly see it working in my life!’ God is looking for people to hear His voice and honestly respond. Through divine friendship He desires the opportunity to further reveal His character and purpose.

While still in the midst of a vision from heaven, God takes Abraham outside and showed him the stars and said:

*“Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them...so shall your offspring be.”* (Genesis 15:4-5)

Friends listen to one another, and God surely heard the pain-filled desire of Abraham. His guarantee to fulfill a promise made was creation itself. God listens and responds to those fear Him.

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Day 12  
Believe

Friends believe one another – even when the immediate evidence differs from the promise made. From the very beginning of their relationship (in Genesis 12) God recognized in Abraham qualities needed for a deep and lasting divine friendship. We learn of his commitment by seeing that Abraham obeyed God and left his homeland to pursue a covenant friendship. He also worshipped him in private, and honored him in public.

But there is more to a divine friendship than responding to circumstances with faithful and worshipful obedience. Abraham believed God.

*“Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”*  
(Genesis 15:6)

God’s faithfulness and pursuit of a friendship drew Abraham to the conclusion that he should believe, or “side with,” the One who designed him and who had his best future in mind. Once Abraham believed in faith, God responds with an amazing gift – righteousness.

You and I, just like Abraham, are invited to stretch forth our own faith and believe in a God who offers real and true friendship.

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)*

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Day 13  
Insure (Protect)

God responds to our faith toward Him with the gentleness of a good natured father toward his own son. As Abraham stretched forth his faith to believe (Hebrews 11:6,8-10) God decided to seal their friendship and make a lasting impression neither one would ever forget.

God gave Abraham detailed instructions to prepare a sacrifice that would insure their eternal commitment to one another (you can read the story in Genesis 15:7-11). Abraham obeyed. Again. By this time Abraham's awe of the Creator God's desire for authentic, real and deep friendship created a pattern of worship and obedience.

As he set out bringing the heifer, goat, ram, dove and pigeon to the place of sacrifice two things happened. First Abraham arranged sacrifices in two equal halves symbolizing a covenant that would occur between friends. Second, Abraham protected God's interests and his own by driving away the birds of prey from the altar area.

God's responds to our obedience and faith in Him by sealing the divine friendship (in Christ). And yet, even this sacrifice must be defended and protected. When the vultures descended to tear away the seal of the covenant, Abraham quickly moved to protect the friendship he had grown to love beyond all else.

Abraham worked to insure that the seal of His divine friendship would not be interrupted or destroyed. You and I have the same privilege. We can guard our hearts and minds from distractions and detractors and open up the way for God to reveal His secrets to us!

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Day 14  
Covenant

Friends walk through life together.

For God and Abraham the “seal” of their friendship began at sunset. After Abraham fell into a deep sleep, the words of God echoed through his spirit, and then the presence of God actually walked in the midst of the sacrifice. God delivered His promise of relationship and His blessing to Abraham’s descendants (Genesis 15:18).

Abraham was asked to do the same in Genesis 17:1-2:

*“I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless, I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase you numbers.”*

Abraham fell face down in worship...God continued:

*“You will be a father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham...I have made you the father of many nations” (Genesis 17:5-8).*

The divine friendship began with a simple trust in one another. The blessing of this friendship grows as friends choose to walk together.

God came to Adam in the cool of the evening to walk with him. God covenants to walk with Abraham – and, through the work of Christ, His offer of friendship to you is no different. God desires to walk with you.

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Day 15 – Message

Day 16  
Full Disclosure

Ever hidden something from someone you love? Inevitably that “hidden thing” causes separation and discord in the relationship. God’s invitation of covenant blessing with Abraham carries with it the requirement of “full disclosure.” Genesis 17:1 describes it this way:

*“...the Lord appeared to Abraham and said, ‘I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless’.”*

God was inviting Abraham to a real authentic love-based relationship. He was saying to Abraham, “I want you to be the real you. Don’t hold anything back from me and know that your transparency and vulnerability will only heighten my involvement in your life!” What a promise He makes:

*“I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” (Genesis 17:2)*

Our friendship with God must be founded on trust. You can trust Him to never hurt you or expose your weakness. And, even better when you are willing to come and confess the real you, He will always wipe away your imperfections with His mercy and love.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

There is no better friendship possible. If we will fully disclose our nature to God Almighty, He will fully disclose His goodness to us.

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Day 17  
Welcome

Friends show hospitality toward one another. When the Lord “appeared” to Abraham near the entrance to his tent, Abraham opened his “home” to God. Taking the form of men, God and accompanying messengers were treated as royal guests.

*“Abraham looked up and saw them standing nearby...he hurried from the entrance of the tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, ‘If I have found favor in your eyes, my Lord, do not pass your servant by.’” (Genesis 18:2-3)*

After offering to wash their feet, Abraham and his wife baked bread, slaughtered a tender calf, and brought curds and milk (Genesis 18:6-8). This was no ordinary snack for a stranger happening by. Abraham was welcoming the King of Kings with a feast.

Abraham was not too busy or pre-occupied with his daily duties to stop and prepare a feast for his new friend. He focused his day on the opportunity to interact with God himself.

This is a sign of true friendship with God. Abraham took time to listen and serve, to honor and to interact. God was waiting at his door and Abraham took him in.

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)*

God is waiting to be welcomed into your day. Open up the doors of your schedule and fellowship with Him!

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Day 18  
Direct

The treasure of a divine friendship is passed on to others.

Before God was going to destroy the evil of Sodom and Gomorrah, He contemplated whether or not to communicate His actions to his friend. But God knew Abraham could be trusted and would pass along the treasure of His friendship to his children. Listen to these words from Genesis 18:18-19:

*“Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children, and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just...”*

The trust factor between God and Abraham was strong. God’s nature was never in question, but Abraham’s character also proved to be consistent and dependable. In fact, it was because of the predictability of Abraham’s “directing” or commanding his children in the way of the Lord, that God shared His secrets with His new found friend.

This is God’s nature – when He finds someone who will pass along the story of His faithfulness and redemption – He unveils what He is about to do.

*“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.” (Isaiah 42:9)*

Abraham gives us a model of what it means to be a proven friend of God. His consistent nature, dependable trust and his intentional commitment to share His God-experiences to family and friends opened the heavens of revelation in His life.

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

Day 19  
Approachable

Friends who openly approach one another will benefit from each other's wisdom, character and insight. After God saw Abraham's faithfulness, He shared the demise of Sodom and Gomorrah. Surely this was a devastating discovery since Abraham's beloved nephew Lot lived in Sodom.

What can Abraham do before the Lord? Abraham "draws near" or approaches God with his question because divine friendships are not distant. In fact, the prophet Isaiah declares:

*"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear..."*  
(Isaiah 59:1)

God is waiting to be approached by those who put their trust in Him. When we are faithful to God, He welcomes our honest and frank conversation. Listen to the prophetic words of God captured in Isaiah 1:18-19:

*"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land..."*

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Day 20  
Conversation

Friends have open conversations with each other. As Abraham boldly shares his request to rescue His nephew Lot and the city of Sodom he says to God,

*“Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of righteous is 45?” (Genesis 18:27-28)*

In this dialogue we learn that honest conversation with God begins with an honest recognition of who we are and who He is. Abraham’s plea is given not from the perspective of a peer friendship, but as the created talking to the Creator.

Perhaps it is in the context of humility that God favorably responds. James 4:10 declares:

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*

God is approachable and desires to openly communicate with us. Even in times of desperation God’s heart is to end our confusion and bring clarity to us. The prophet Jeremiah describes the nature of conversation with God in Jeremiah 33:2-3:

*“This is what the Lord says, He who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it – the Lord is His name: ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell your great and unsearchable things you do not know’.”*

Surely Abraham’s humble conversation caught the attention of God. In turn, God not only listened but answered. He is a God who answers.

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Day 21  
Spokesman

Over the years, the friendship between God and Abraham deepened – even despite Abraham’s tendency toward self-preservation. Genesis 20 tells a story that unveils a flaw in Abraham’s character. For the second time in his life, Abraham wrongfully describes his faithful wife, Sarah, as his sister.

And for the second time, God comes to the rescue of His friend. When Sarah was “given” to King Abimelech (presumably to keep peace), God visited the King in a dream and said:

*“You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman”...Abimelech responds, “Did he not say... ‘She is my sister,’ and she said, ‘he is my brother?’ I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.” (Genesis 20:3-5)*

Even though Abraham acted wrongfully, God protected His covenant promise by keeping Sarah and Abraham from being ensnared. And right in the middle of Abraham’s compromise, God declares to King Abimelech:

*“Yes I know you did this with a clear conscience and I have kept you from sinning. That’s why I did not let you touch her. Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live.” (Genesis 20:6-7)*

God declares His friend Abraham to be a “spokesman” or prophet of God. Friends defend, honor and speak for one another even in times of crisis.

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## Day 22 – Message

Day 23  
Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 teaches us that *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* However, fearing others more than God removes us from His wisdom and leaves us to rely on our own limited insight.

In Genesis 20:10 when King Abimelech calls Abraham into account for being untruthful about his wife, Sarah, Abraham’s reply gives us a glimpse into his own struggle. Fearing others more than God, he chose to suffer the consequences of depending on his own intellect:

*“There is surely no fear of God in this place and they will kill me because of my wife. Besides she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.” (Genesis 20:11-13)*

Abraham used the wisdom that he had been given without consulting God. This very difficult lesson brought reproach on Abraham and Sarah. It is a strong reminder to us that in a divine friendship we must fear God more than the opinions of other people. Proverbs puts it this way:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Prov. 3:5-6)*

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Day 24  
A Conduit of Blessing

Throughout the course of his life, Abraham, just like you and me, showed his humanity through the mistakes that he made. It is important to note that God does not cancel his commitment to bless him, nor withdraw friendship each time Abraham blunders. In fact, in Genesis 20, we read the story of Abraham failing to be forthright and truthful to King Abimelech. To protect his own life Abraham pretends that Sarah is merely his sister and not his wife.

When Abimelech has a dream from God and finds out the truth he must have been furious with Abraham. But God assures the king that Abraham will bless him and that healing will come to His house.

In Genesis 20:17 God's promise comes true. Abraham offers a prayer of healing according to the covenant established between he and God. God hears the prayer and heals the king and his wife so that they can have children. God is faithful to His friends! And He chooses us, even when we falter in our work, to be used a blessing to those around us.

God has prepared you today to be a conduit of His blessings to others!

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Day 25  
Confidence

Divine friendships are marked with the blessings of God. From the moment that God made a covenant with Abraham and Abraham responded with obedience their friendship was an unstoppable force of blessing.

Through the daily tasks of life, difficulties, mistakes, victories or blunders, Abraham never wavered from His commitment to God – and God never wavered from His commitment to Abraham.

This is a key factor in divine friendships. The unchanging nature of God creates a confidence and a consistency in their relationships. Even other people began to take notice.

King Abimelech told Abraham in Genesis 21:22: “God is with you in everything you do.” What an incredible complement. To think that the Creator of the Universe, the most powerful God, was so tangibly evident in Abraham’s life that others saw the favor He had received.

I can imagine the confidence that Abraham had walking through each day. The God of the universe was on His side. And He is on yours when you commit to fear Him and obey his commands.

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Day 26  
Call Out

Good friends can't keep a secret from one another. In a divine friendship, Abraham can't contain the blessing He has received from God. He "calls" on the name of the Lord in Genesis 21:33.

What does it mean to "call on the name of the Lord." Certainly this implies that Abraham set aside time to worship and honor God for who He was. But I also had to think Abraham was making a public declaration so that others would know that all the favor and blessing he had received came from God and God alone.

God publicly showed his favor in Abraham's life; and, as a friend of God, Abraham declared to all who could hear his complete allegiance to God. Friends boast in one another's goodness – and Abraham in public worship – declared God's blessing and favor to all those around Him.

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Day 27  
Test

The gifts and blessings from God are incredible but they are no match for a divine relationship with God himself. God, though He gives good gifts, tests those with whom He would be friends to prove their faithfulness to Him.

For Abraham this test was costly and difficult to understand. Genesis 22 recounts the story of his obedience in taking his only son Isaac up the mountain of sacrifice to be offered unto God. I can not fathom the pain he must have gone through as he prepared the altar upon which his son would lay.

But the test for Abraham was clear. Would he covet the gift more than the Giver of gifts? God tests those He loves so that their faith in Him will reign supreme. It is easy to enjoy the benefits of God so much that we forget that He is the reward.

For Abraham the trip with his son Isaac up Mount Moriah, was an eternal reminder that God alone is the one who deserves allegiance, love and devotion. Abraham was tested.

He chose God over His gifts and was rewarded with an eternal friendship with God. It was a costly choice but the right one to make. We should never forget that the one who gives us life is the one who deserves our total commitment.

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

Day 28  
Obedience

The true tests of a divine friendship are not merely words offered in praise; it is the commitment to a lifestyle of obedience. For Abraham on Mt. Moriah, with his son in tow, his commitment to obey was proof of His loyalty and deserved a reward.

Genesis 22:16-18 describes it this way: *“I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son [the promise], your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky...and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*

Obedience is proof positive of a faithful friendship with God.

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

Day 29  
Message

Day 30  
Responsibility

As Abraham grew older the Scripture says that “God blessed him in every way.” (Genesis 24:1) What an incredible statement. Abraham was abundantly blessed by God physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually – in every aspect of his life.

There was only one way that Abraham could return such blessing. It was to take responsibility to pass on the covenant blessing to his son Isaac. So he set out to insure that Isaac married someone who would also worship the one true God. Abraham sent his servant to find someone suitable for Isaac that would honor the covenant blessing from God. Divine friendships take responsibility to insure the passing on of coveted relationships from one generation to another.

You and I have a responsibility to create an environment for our children and those we influence that is filled with God’s favor and obedience.

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*

Day 31  
Legacy

“Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.” (Genesis 25:5). In these short words we can understand the powerful notion that Abraham held nothing back. He passed on the covenant blessing, the inheritance, the rewards and all the riches he had gained to his son.

Divine friendships create a legacy that lasts. Rather than harbor or keep the friendship with God to himself, Abraham set out to insure Isaac would get the full measure of blessing from God. After all, God had entrusted his very own nature and covenant to Abraham so that it would in turn bless the nations of the earth. That seed of blessing was not to be hoarded but multiplied from one generation to the next.

Those who are friends with God covet nothing on their own, but pass their blessings on to the next generation.

Psalm 25:14 NLT – *“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares the secrets of His covenant.”*