

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP - BIBLE STUDY**  
**Study Series: Abraham: Friend of God, Father of Faith**

**Part 8: Friendship with God**  
**Text: Genesis 18:1-33**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**  
**Teacher: Minister Tomilade Adebari**

**I. Setting the Stage for Intimacy and God's Promise Confirmed to Abraham Again**

*"The Lord appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day." Genesis 18:1 NLT*

There is significance in this location- remember from chapter 13:18, it was a place where Abraham had already built an altar for God. This is important as we talk about friendship with God- He had already set up a meeting place between He and God- this is important as we pursue intimacy with Him.

**Food for thought #1: Do you have an altar already in place for God? A place where it is just you and Him? A consistent one- what does this mean to you?**

There is also something to say about Abraham's posture- he was sitting at the entrance to His tent during the hottest part of the day. If some of us were him, we would be sitting inside but he sat outside, almost to say he was expecting someone.

**Food for thought #2: As we pursue friendship with God- where are we in relation to God?**

**a. Abraham NOTICES the Visitors**

*"He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground." Genesis 18:2 NLT*

In friendship and in intimacy, you must notice people - how much more so God?

**Food for thought #3: How can you take NOTICE of God? How can you WELCOME Him?**

**b. Abraham MAKES ROOM for the Visitors**

*"3 My Lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. 4 Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. 5 And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said." Genesis 18:3-5 NLT*

**c. Abraham makes HASTE**

*"6 So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread." 7 Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. 8 When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees." Genesis 18:6-8 NLT*

- Abraham did not waste time. You can tell He understood the significance of this divine encounter. He hurried everyone in the process to ensure to not keep His visitors waiting. He realized He was in a divine moment, a *kairos* moment. You don't do this for just anyone, you do it for someone you place extreme value on- and you can see Abraham ensuring that he doesn't miss this divine opportunity.

**Food for thought #4: How can we do the same for God? Are there any scenarios you can think of where you knew God was visiting you- what was your response? And how did that encounter affect your tomorrow?**

#### **d. A Miracle Announced to Abraham**

*"9 Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked. "She's inside the tent," Abraham replied. 10 Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. 11 Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. 12 So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?" 13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." 15 Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh." But the Lord said, "No, you did laugh.""* Genesis 18:9-15 NLT

**Food for thought #5: Why did the Lord ask Abraham these series of questions and not Sarah herself?**

## **II. God Reveals His Plan to Abraham**

*"16 Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way." 17 Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the Lord asked. 18 "For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. 19 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 18:16-19 NLT

Friendship with God, intimacy with God, allows you to be so close to the heart of God that He desires to share His plans with you. We see here that even though the visitors were leaving- Abraham went with them. He didn't let them go just like that.

**Food for thought #6: How can we actively pursue God?**

*"20 So the Lord told Abraham, "I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. 21 I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know." 22 The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the Lord remained with Abraham. 23 Abraham approached him and said, "Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked?"* Genesis 18:20-23 NLT

What was so beautiful here was that the Lord stayed back to have a ONE-ON-ONE conversation with Abraham. God did not have to do that but from the earlier parts of this chapter and previous chapters we see that Abraham was someone that God delighted in because of his reverence to God, his obedience to God and his pursuit of God. And verse 23 says something very key, Abraham approached God-some other translations say Abraham came near- you can only do that when you have an intimate relationship.

**Food for thought #7: Give examples of how you have been able to draw near to God in any area of your life.**

## **III. The Power of Intercession**

*"24 Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? 25 Surely you wouldn't do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn't do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?" 26 And the Lord replied, "If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake."* Genesis 18:24-26 NLT

If we continue to read on, we will see a beautiful dialogue between Abraham and God. Abraham was talking to God like a companion and God responded back to Him with that same level of intimate companionship.

**What attributes did Abraham show us in this chapter and in previous ones that demonstrate to us HOW to become a friend of God? (Bonus points if you can give scripture references)**