

"But thou, Israel, art My Servant, Jacob whom I Have Chosen, the seed of Abraham My Friend." Isaiah 41:8 KJV

Of all the billions of born on earth, only Abraham understood our heavenly Father's sorrow of an only son's sacrifice for someone else he loved! He knew the deep anguish our Father felt as the words, "My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken Me?" rang out in the noon-day midnight of Golgotha. He walked in silent camaraderie with God for both had known the trusting look of a son sacrificed by their own hand! God proclaimed to all His Creation, "Abraham, My Friend!" There is no higher honor, order, or praise than to share God's friendship or suffering! Not only to observe, but to actually experience it. Soldiers who know war's atrocities know a similar bond. It is a camaraderie none other can know outside of shared suffering! David and Jonathon knew this bond of friendship. David saved and honored Jonathan's crippled son because of His love for Jonathon! To what supernatural plane of fellowship did Abraham rise with God? They withheld nothing from one another. God promised Abraham "By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." He strives with a thrice Holy eternal Sovereign who strives with the progeny of Abraham! Believers are in Christ and are, therefore, included in this covenant God made with Abraham. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Abraham's trust in God was implicit and complete. God asked Abraham to offer Isaac, "thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest," as a sacrifice. Abraham knew full well that Isaac would have to die, and though he did not understand, we know he fully trusted God, because Abraham simply did what his Friend asked, no questions, no murmurs, and no hesitation! "He rose up early" to obey God who pledged to Abraham that He would heap blessing upon blessing upon him! From his offspring would come God's "only begotten Son!" How great is my faith and trust in God? Do I implicitly obey Him or do I question His commands? Could He call me "Friend?"



A fellowship beyond compare,
Did Abram with Jehovah share,
He trusted God unto the end,
And God, Himself, did call him "Friend!" –CGP

I'm reminded of the hymn line that goes, "Those that trust Him wholly, find Him Wholly True!" Implicit obedience to God is not blind obedience. It is born of complete trust and confidence in the Character And Ability of our Omnipotent, Eternal, and Benevolent Sovereign! Jesus Desires you to experience the "Fellowship of His Sufferings" so you may be His Friend. Friends endure suffering for friends. Are you willing to suffer to be the "Friend" of God?

"These things Have I Spoken unto you, that My Joy Might Remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is My Commandment, 'That ye love one another, as I Have Loved you.' Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My Friends, if ye do Whatsoever I Command you." John 15:11-14 KJV