

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. Of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called." Hebrews 11:17-18 KJV



Abraham did not know of Christ's death or resurrection. He had not read the New Testament promises, the Law given to Moses, nor any of the prophet's writings. *"He believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness."* He believed that of his offspring all nations would be blessed. His actions punctuated and manifested his faith.

Obedience is the evidence of faith and faith is the evidence of the unseen God! God told Abraham, *"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."* Abraham trusted God so completely that he *"rose up early in the morning,"* and went forth. There were no resurrections to strengthen his faith. He simply trusted and *"obeyed God."* For this he was given the supreme title, *"The Friend of God."* When God's Voice echoes in your consciousness, do you even recognize it? Do you ignore, doubt, or obey it? Everyone knows God exists for *"the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech; night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."* Faith is not just hearing, but obeying God. His Voice is the Voice of Truth. Jesus said, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me and am known of mine."* A shepherd leads his sheep with his voice. They follow, because they trust his voice. The shepherd speaks to his flock constantly, because sheep are prone to mindless wandering in search of food. Men are prone to mindless pursuit of self gratification without regard for Truth. *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way."* Just as his father Adam before him, man disregards Truth in favor of self gratifying lies. Truth is the Voice of God. Those who obey are not only God's friends, but are *"the children of God: for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* If you do not obey God, you are not His child!

True faith believes its dearest friend,
Remaining true until the end,
Never a doubt nor false pretense,
By their friend's word they are convinced. ~CGP

You must diligently study the Holy Scriptures if you would know Truth when He speaks. You must trust and obey, even in the face of impossibility; believing that *"with God nothing shall be impossible."* Faith pursues God even in the face of extreme peril and death. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* If you truly believe, your life will punctuate your faith rather than deny it. Are you a *"Friend of God?"*

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works (obedience) is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, 'Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness:' and he was called the Friend of God." James 2:20-23 KJV