

ABRAHAM: Growing Strong in Faith

Becoming A Friend of God

James 2:14-26

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Dr. Paul White, Senior Pastor

...and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” – and he was called a friend of God. (v. 23)

Being a friend of God requires more than an _____ faith.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (vv. 14-17)

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (Titus 1:15-16)

Being a friend of God requires more than a _____ faith.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder! (vv. 18-19)

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (Hebrews 11:8-9)

Being a friend of God requires a _____ faith.

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? (vv. 20-21)

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith...That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring – not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all... (Romans 4:13, 16)

Being a friend of God results in a _____ faith.

You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” – and he was called a friend of God. (vv. 22-23)

“Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:5-6)

Being a friend of God means we are _____.

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (vv. 24-26)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

4 Questions to help you examine your own life:

- 1. Was there a time when I realized I was a sinner and admitted this to myself and to God?**
- 2. Did I sincerely repent of my sins and turn from them or do I secretly love sin and want to enjoy it?**
- 3. Have I trusted in Christ alone to save me? Do I enjoy a living relationship with Him through His Word and by His Spirit?**
- 4. Has there been a change in my life? Do I seek God's will for my life? Can others tell that I follow Jesus?**

Legend:

Being a friend of God requires more than an intellectual faith.

Being a friend of God requires more than a demonic faith.

Being a friend of God requires a living faith.

Being a friend of God results in a visible faith.

Being a friend of God means we are right with God.

Faithbridge Church

13720 McCormick Road * Jacksonville, FL 32225

904-220-2727 * www.wearefaithbridge.com