



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 28: The Friendship of the Lord

Psalm 25:12-14 *"Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant" (ESV).*

DEVOTIONAL

The Psalmist asks a question and then spends three verses answering it: "Who is the man who fears the Lord?" Four things are received by those who walk in this fear. He is instructed in the way he should choose; his soul abides in well-being, and his offspring inherit the land. The pinnacle of it all is that: "The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him." Notice how friendship and fear sit side by side. At first glance these seem like opposites; fear and friendship don't often go together. However, the very ones who fear the Lord are the ones admitted into His friendship. In other words, reverence is not the barrier to intimacy; it is the doorway.

The Hebrew behind "friendship" is *sod*, which means intimate counsel, confidential conversation, the private, trusted talk shared between close friends. Some render it "the secret of the Lord." It pictures God drawing near to whisper to His intimate friends what He would never share with an acquaintance; letting them into His purposes and His heart. This is abiding at its most intimate level: not merely living near God but being taken into His confidence. John Owen devoted an entire work to communion with God, showing that the believer is invited not just to serve God from afar but to enjoy a genuine, two-way fellowship with Him.

Abraham had this type of abiding relationship with God. Three times Abraham is called the friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). Abraham's friendship with God was not sentiment; it was a proven reverence; the fear of the Lord holding nothing back, including his son Isaac (Genesis 22). Friendship and fear, exactly as the psalm binds them, embodied in one trembling, obedient man.

See the difference in what such a friend received. To those who fear Him, the psalm says, God "makes known" His covenant — He discloses it and lets us in on it. With Abraham the Lord went further than disclosure. "I will *establish* my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you" (Genesis 17:7). The Hebrew is *heqim* — to confirm, to raise up, to cause to stand. God bound Himself to it by oath: "By myself I have sworn" (Genesis 22:16). God did not merely tell Abraham the terms; He staked His own name on them and made them stand forever. That is friendship deepened into a covenant relationship, not merely information passed to a servant.

Do not miss the gospel in this, since the same covenant is yours in Christ. "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:29). The friendship established with one God-fearing man on a mountain reaches all the way down to you.

This abiding friendship purifies. When God takes you into His confidence, sin loses its appeal, because you hold something infinitely better: the secret fellowship of the Almighty. Who would trade the friendship of the living God for the fleeting whispers of temptation? Fear Him rightly, and He eagerly and gladly calls you friend.

TAKE AWAY

God tells His secrets to His friends. Abraham proved this friendship through his reverent fear, holding nothing back on the mountain. To those who fear Him, God doesn't just disclose His covenant; He establishes it.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to make you His friend in the way Abraham was — fearing Him enough to hold nothing back — and to let His established covenant become the treasure of your heart.