

Abraham: The Example Of A Life That Was Totally Committed To God

At the time in history when God first called Abraham the state of society could not well have been worse.

Genesis 6:5-8 [NIV] *“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air, for I am grieved that I have made them.” But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.”*

This pre-flood condition had not improved. Within a few generations humanity had turned their back on their Creator and “*done their own thing*” resulting to a society similar in character to the pre-flood generations.

Idolatry was worldwide.

Abraham was part of that society when God, much I’m sure to Abraham’s astonishment, called him.

Genesis 12:1-3 [NIV] *“The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

The astounding plan God revealed that totally involved Abraham, must have been very difficult for Abraham to grasp.

God chose to be Abraham’s friend, to actually share His thoughts and plans with Abraham.

Is that not what friends do?

Friends share their hopes and plans, not just introduce themselves to each other.

For us to understand personal salvation is not too difficult for our finite mind, but to share God’s vision for humanity is mind shattering.

This is why God continued to visit and speak with Abraham.

Abraham saw the vision, but it took many years for the realisation of personal involvement to sink in and for him to fully obey the call.

Abraham was called by God to be a witness to society.

To witness is **not** to bring to humanity what is already general knowledge but the truth that only a few know. This is the true meaning of “*to witness*”.

Galatians 3:29 [NIV] *“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

In Abraham's life we see our responsibility as Christians, our commission is the same as his and our response must be the same.

A life that became one of total faith in God's Word and dedication to His Will.

For such a change to take place in our lives we also have to become a friend of God.

How do we become a friend of God?

There is only one way this can happen, by spending many hours in God's presence.

God allowed Abraham to go through many tests and trials so that dependency on God as his friend would be proved.

The person God wants to use is not prepared by only hearing a lot of things about God, but by seeing and sharing their life with God in true friendship.

Hebrews 3:6 [NIV] *"But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast."*

When the word "house" is used in Greek it means far more than a building. "Ōikōs" means dwelling place and by implication the family who dwell in the same house.

We all know how difficult it is for even Christians to dwell together in peace.

God's house, the Church, is a group of people who are welded together into one witnessing family by the Cross of Christ, the Son of God who is head of that family.

It is the House of God that is God's witness to this society.

John 15:8, 12-17 [NIV] *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." ... "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."*

When by the Grace of God this happens and continues to happen within a fellowship of Christians the world will take notice.

Witnessing Christianity is a life to be lived, not just a principle to acknowledge, something to be, not just something to copy on the outside.

How is this accomplished in a family of individuals?

John 15:1-8 [NIV] *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

Two principles are emphasised in this passage of scripture. Our total **dependency** and a continual **unity** with Jesus Christ, for fruit to be produced.

Matthew 25:1-13 [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”*

An intimate union with Christ is like a virgin engaged to be married preparing herself for that future full union.

A major goal of any man and woman who come together in the union of marriage is to have children to inherit all they have physically, morally and spiritually.

For this to happen the man and woman must be of one mind and thus becoming a powerful example for their children to follow.

Philippians 2:1-2 [NIV] *“If you have any encouragement from being **united with Christ**, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the **same love**, **being one in spirit and purpose**.”*

The description of how a man and woman should be as a married couple, and also how the Church and Christ must be.

One mind, one love, one spirit and one purpose.

Abraham had this same oneness with the God who made a covenant with him.

The New Covenant that God has made with us as Christians is not really “new” but the same original covenant made with Abraham.

The New Covenant is only “new” when it is compared with the covenant made with Moses and ancient Israel, the covenant of law.

The God who made that covenant with Abraham was the One who became Jesus Christ the Son of Man, who made with us a covenant of love and friendship.

John 8:56, 58 [NIV] *“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”*

Jesus Christ as the Son of God existed before Abraham was born for He had no beginning [*“I am”* – means just that, ever existing].

The Son of God has always represented the Father.

Colossians 1:15-18 [Message Bible] *“We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. **We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created.** For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels, everything got started in His and finds its purpose in Him. He was there before any of it came into existence and*

holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the Church, He organises and holds it together, like a head does a body.”

God’s overall purpose is to have born to Him a people who will mature to be like Him through a union with His Son Jesus Christ.

These people will eventually inherit all things with Christ.

Revelation 21:1-7 [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. **He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.**”*

The new home for Christ and His bride the Church, and the new civilisation where children will be born of Christ and His bride to inherit the new earth.

This is the fulfilment of the promise [covenant] made with Abraham and the children born to him having the same faith in God’s Word that Abraham had.

Through our dedication to and total belief in God’s Word we can become a child of Abraham who was the friend of God [Jesus Christ the Son of God].

A friend who eventually becomes a bride of the Son of God and through that union God will fulfil His promise to Abraham that all people will be blessed through him.