Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

Sarah Laughed
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

- Abraham is designated as God’s friend three times in the scriptures.
- 2 Chronicles 20:7
2 Chronicles 20:7 (NASB)

7 Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?
Abraham is designated as God’s friend three times in the scriptures.

- 2 Chronicles 20:7
- James 2:23
James 2:23  (NASB)

and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.
Friendship and Laughter

God’s Friend

- Abraham is designated as God’s friend three times in the scriptures.
  - 2 Chronicles 20:7
  - James 2:23
  - Isaiah 41:8
Isaiah 41:8-10 (NASB)

8 “But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
And called from its remotest parts
And said to you, ‘You are My servant,’
I have chosen you and not rejected you.

9 Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

- Christian hospitality – Hebrews 13:2
Hebrews 13:2 (NASB)

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
Christian hospitality – Hebrews 13:2

- Hospitality was a common practice of the day.
- It seems Abraham actually entertained God.
- Does this suggest the trinity? Possibly.
- It is more likely the other two are angels.
- This is definitely a Christophany.
- This passage suggests that God desires to be our friend and for us to be a friend to Him.
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

What does it mean to be friendly?
- Want friends? Then show yourself as friendly.
- Abraham shows himself as friendly in many ways.
- God shows Himself as friendly through you!
- Matthew 25:40
Matthew 25:40 (NASB)

40 The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’
God’s Friend

What does it mean to be friendly?

- Want friends? Then show yourself as friendly.
- Abraham shows himself as friendly in many ways.
- God shows Himself as friendly through you!
- Matthew 25:40
- God’s friendship with us is based on –
  ✓ Companionship
  ✓ Communication
  ✓ Compassion
Friendship and Laughter
Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
14 “You are My friends if you do what I command you.
15 “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
**Friendship and Laughter**

*Genesis 18:1-15*

**God’s Friend**

  - Jesus raises the bar of friendship with God.
  - Abraham had *companionship* but ...
  - Abraham received *communication* but ...
  - Abraham experienced *compassion* but ...
- Is Jesus your friend?
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s Friend

➢ Are you Jesus’ friend?

➢ This comes through obedience to God!
  ❖ Our obedience must be active.
  ❖ Our obedience must be continuous.
  ❖ Our obedience must be in all things.
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

Application

Is Jesus your friend?

Are you Jesus’ friend?
Friendship and Laughter
Genesis 18:1-15

Sarah Laughed

- Laughing – three things about unbelief
  - Unbelief is sin – 1 John 5:9-10.
1 John 5:9-10 (NASB)

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

Sarah Laughed

- Laughing – three things about unbelief
  - Unbelief is sin – 1 John 5:9-10.
  - Unbelief leads to other sins – “I did not laugh.”
Isaiah 59:1-2 (NASB)

1 Behold, the LORD’s hand is not so short
   That it cannot save;
   Nor is His ear so dull
   That it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
   And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

Sarah Laughed

- Our gracious God
  - God’s response is not our response.
  - God is slow to anger and compassionate.
  - Sarah looked to circumstances and not to God.
  - “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”
Friendship and Laughter

Genesis 18:1-15

Sarah Laughed

- Three blessings
  - Sarah received faith – she had started in unbelief but was brought to faith. **Faith leads to faith.**
  - Sarah received laughter (the kind that is unbridled joy) – Genesis 21:6-7. **Laughter at God’s goodness leads others to laugh along.**
  - Sarah received praise – 1 Peter 3:1-6.
1 Peter 3:1-6 (NASB)

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.
Sarah Laughed

Three blessings

- Sarah received faith – she had started in unbelief but was brought to faith. **Faith leads to faith.**
- Sarah received laughter (the kind that is unbridled joy) – Genesis 21:6-7. **Laughter at God’s goodness leads others to laugh along.**
- Sarah received praise – 1 Peter 3:1-6. **Praise always becomes an ever-increasing hymn to God from whom all blessings flow.**

Friendship and Laughter

*Genesis 18:1-15*

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Friendship and Laughter
Genesis 18:1-15

Application

Do you consistently ask “Lord, what will you have me do?”

How is your faith?
Your laughter?
Your praise?