

CALLED TO COVENANT **“Drawing Near To God”** **James 4:8 and Revelation 3:20**

“Come near to God and He will come near to you. ...”
James 4:8 (NIV)

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

Jesus - *“Come to me ... and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Ultimately God has created us for eternal **relationship**.

BECOMING A FRIEND OF GOD – LESSONS FROM ABRAM

“... I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend.”
Isaiah 41:8 (NIV)

“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.” James 2:23 (NIV)

How to become God’s friend:

1. Respond to His **invitation** and **promises**—Believe God.

“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.’ So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; ...” Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV)

2. Accept God’s **Covenant**. (Genesis 15)

“He (God) also said to him (Abram), ‘I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.’ But Abram said, ‘O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?’” Genesis 15:7-8 (NIV)

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram ...”
Genesis 15:18 (NIV)

Covenant means to **bind** or **shackle** two things together.

Covenants have four parts:

- **Terms**
- **Oath**
- **Ratification** or Symbols
- **Curse**

The most binding covenant was the **blood** covenant. This was an irrevocable covenant.

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘Know for certain ...”
Genesis 15:13 (NIV)

What was Abram’s part? **Nothing!**

“As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, ...”
Genesis 15:12 (NIV)

God chooses to make a covenant because He is on a relentless mission to **reconnect** with His human creation. God has never **given up on me**.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:28 (NIV)