God and Abraham Commune

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 and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. [Genesis 12:1-3, 4-7]

So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land. So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. [Genesis 12:4-7]

The LORD said to Abram “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD. [Genesis 13:14-18]

How is Abraham comming with God?

Abraham’s first recorded request

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” [Genesis 15:1]

But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars— if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” [Genesis 15:2-6]

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

God also said to him, “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]

He will know by God’s promise – a Covenant.

In verses 9-21, God has Abram prepare an altar. That day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.” He also tells him major events to come: the 400 years Abram’s seed will spend in captivity in Egypt – God’s punishment of Egypt – the return of the people to the promised land – Abraham’s own peaceful death.
When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.” [Genesis 17:1]

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him... I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants... [Genesis 17:3]

(God now changes their names to Abraham and Sarah)

God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarah your wife, I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! As for Ishmael, I have heard thee. Behold I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly... I will make him a great nation [Genesis 17:16,18,20]

(This is the first recorded prayer with an immediate answer)

In Genesis 18, God tells Abraham that he is going to destroy Sodom and Gemorrah, where his nephew Lot is living.

Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Abraham reminds God of his merciful character) The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” [Genesis 18:23-26]

**Abraham persuades God** down to 10 people. Did God find 10 such people? Sadly, no, and God destroys Sodom – but saves Lot and his family. What amazing boldness! Need I be afraid to ask great things?

**THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM**

Ten years later Isaac is born – finally! God’s timing is not the same as ours.

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” [Genesis 22:1]

Are there no words from Abraham? No pleas, no questions? What might have been in his thoughts and in his heart?

Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

Just as Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son, the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy” [Genesis 22:11]
The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” [Genesis 22:16-18]

Where do you think Abraham’s quiet strength came from? (remember Gen 15:6) He believed…and it was counted to him for righteousness. Do I have this faith?

We have been closely examining the prayer life of Abraham, the “friend of God”. [2 Chronicles 20:7 and Isaiah 41:8] As we reflect on the words of both God and Abraham:
Who speaks more?

Who gives more?

Who reveals himself more?

And who receives gift upon gift upon gift?

**How gracious God is to reveal himself to us!**
Surely, Abraham was a man like me - full of weakness and failings. But the attitude of the heart best describes an individual. How would you describe his heart from the Scriptures we read?

The prayer life of Abraham could be called_________________________. How can I commune with my God more closely?

*Lord, teach me to pray! Thank you for your servant, Abraham.*