

## The Friend Of God

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Abraham is mentioned in a number of scriptures as the friend of God. The question of whether the references are to Abraham being the friend of the God who became the Father, or the Word who became Jesus Christ, is important in being able to understand who is being addressed. Since the Bible does not contradict itself, the various accounts of that friendship will be consistent.

Acts 3:13 states **“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus”**. At face value, it says that the God of Abraham was God the Father. It is a phrase that is used throughout the Old and the New Testaments and the meaning is always the same. James 2:23 further states, **“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God”**.

The reference to Abraham believing God is from Genesis 15:6, where it states **“And he believed in the LORD [YHWH], and He accounted it to him for righteousness”**. There the word of the LORD came to Abraham in a vision and the LORD promised him an heir through whom he would have descendants, in number, like the stars of heaven. This is what Abraham believed. He believed that God’s promise would be fulfilled. The chapter continues and records that the LORD made a covenant with Abraham and then describes the land that his descendants would receive.

Abraham’s relationship with God is confirmed in 2 Chronicles 20:6-7 where it states **“O LORD God of our fathers” and then refers to Israel as “the descendants of Abraham Your friend”**. The various designations, **“The LORD”** (Genesis 15:16), **“the God of our fathers”** (Acts 3:13), and **“O LORD God of our fathers”** (2 Chronicles 20:6), are all the same. They are to the Father, who is supreme. This is also referenced in Isaiah 41:8 where it states **“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend”**. The one speaking, is **“the LORD”** (verse 4), and He says **“I am your God”** (verse 10), and then **“I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand”** (verse 13).

Galatians 3:6 also records that **“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness”**. It is the same as in James, but it goes on to state **“In you all the nations shall be blessed”** (verse 8). The blessing comes through Christ as is explained in verses 16-18. Scripture is consistent. The God to whom Abraham was a friend, and who was the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, was the one who glorified His Servant Jesus.

Finally, Romans 4 reinforces and makes this distinction clear. It includes the reference **“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness”** (verse 3) and then follows with **“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness”** (verses 20-22). It then continues, **“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead”** (verses 23-24). The point being, Abraham believed God and we are to believe God as well.

Scripture clearly shows that it was the Father to whom Abraham was a friend.