



# Growing In the Faith 2020

Developing a Relationship with  
God Through His Word

Opening Night

A Real Relationship with God



# Best Friends

Describe your relationship with your best friend.

- Affectionate
- Agreeable
- Appreciative
- Committed
- Honest
- Joyful
- Like-minded
- Loyal
- Open
- Respectful
- Selfless
- Shared Interests, Goals
- Trustworthy
- Understanding

Do these describe your relationship with God?



# Are You God's Friend?

In the Old Testament, God refers to two as His friends:

- **Isaiah 41:8** "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of **Abraham My friend.**"
  - **Genesis 18:16-19** God shared His will with Abraham.
- **Exodus 33:11** "So the LORD spoke to **Moses** face to face, [Hb. *peh*, "mouth to mouth"] as a man speaks to **his friend.**"
  - **Exodus 33:17-34:7** God revealed Himself to Moses.
  - **Deuteronomy 5:4** Israel couldn't handle this experience.
- Does God extend this special status to you?



# Abraham's Special Status

- **James 2:21-25** <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup>Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made perfect?** <sup>23</sup>And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called **the friend of God.** <sup>24</sup>You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."
- Abraham's faith was revealed in what he did.
  - Are you this loyal to God? How does He know?



# Moses' Special Status

- **Numbers 12:6** "6Then He said, 'Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.  
7Not so with My servant Moses; He is **faithful in all My house**. 8I speak with him **face to face**, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?'"
- Moses' faith allowed God to be more open & direct.
  - Can God be open with you? How does He know?

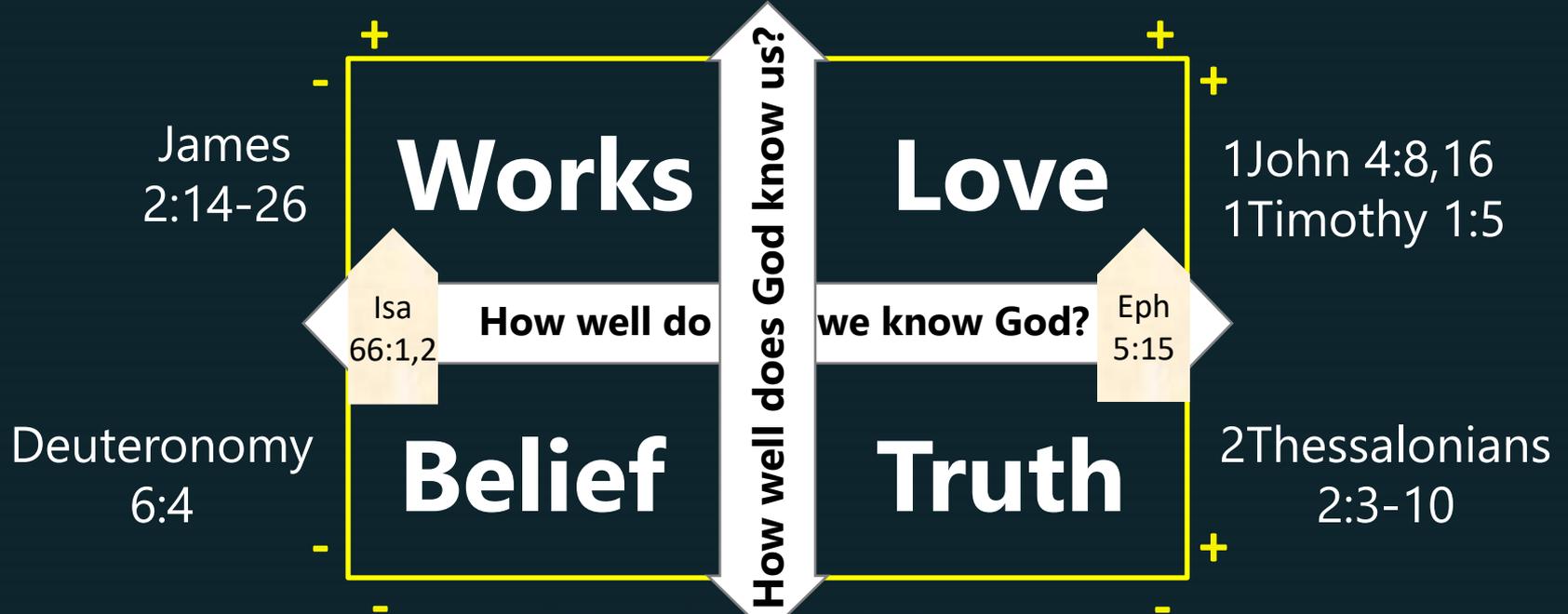


# A Friend of Jesus Christ

- **John 15:14,15** “<sup>14</sup>You are **My friends** if you do whatever I command you.” <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
  - **Barnes Notes:** “It is the privilege of friendship to be made acquainted with the plans, wishes, and wants of the friend. This instance of friendship Jesus had given them by making them acquainted with the reasons why he was about to leave them,...”
- As our lives comply with His plans we are His friends.



# Our Friendship With God



# A Real Relationship with God

- How do we know what God says?
  - Where do we find His plan, Jesus' commands?
- How does God begin His friendship with us?
  - What is repentance & faith why are they necessary?
    - Do we muster these up or are they imparted by God?
- What does it mean to be immersed in Christ?
  - How do we give God our affection, appreciation, commitment, loyalty?
  - How do we share His interests, plans, goals?
  - How do we grow in His trust and understanding?



# Knowing God by His Word

- Many who are waiting on God need to realize that He is waiting on them.
  - Change & growth produced by repentance & faith must be chosen and acted upon by those to whom God imparts it.
  - If you have repented, He granted it. **2Timothy 2:24**
  - If you believe, He imparted it. **Galatians 5:22**
- Our friendship with God begins when we do what He says.
  - It then grows over a life of doing so.

