

James 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Analysis

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Scripture was fulfilled: "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6); and he was called the friend of God (philos Theou, φίλος Θεοῦ). Abraham's later obedience confirmed earlier faith, earning him the relational title friend.

Reformed believers cherish justification by imputed righteousness while pursuing intimate friendship with God through obedient trust. Works fulfill, not replace, initial faith.

Historical Context

Friend of God was a Jewish honorific for Abraham. James applies it to believers who emulate his obedient trust. Paul's use of Genesis 15:6 proves initial justification by faith; James shows ongoing fulfillment.",

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Abraham's title 'friend of God' inspire you toward obedience?
2. Where might God be inviting you to fulfill Scripture through action?
3. How can justification truths fuel deeper friendship with God?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπληρώθη ἡ γραφὴ ἡ λέγουσα Ἐπίστευσεν δὲ
And was fulfilled the scripture which saith believed
G2532 G4137 G3588 G1124 G3588 G3004 G1161
G4100

Ἄβραὰμ τῷ θεῷ καὶ ἐλογίσθη αὐτῷ εἰς δικαιοσύνην
Abraham God And it was imputed unto him for righteousness
G11 G2316 G2532 G3049 G846 G1519 G1343

καὶ φίλος θεοῦ ἐκλήθη
And the Friend God he was called
G2532 G5384 G2316 G2564

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 15:6 (Faith): And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Isaiah 41:8 (References Abraham): But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

2 Chronicles 20:7 (References God): Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

Galatians 3:6 (Faith): Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Exodus 33:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Romans 11:2 (Word): God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org