

I. STEP 3: EXCHANGE THE TERM FRIEND

A. Friend Is A Covenant Term

1. Known as the friend of your covenant partner
2. Ex. 33:11

“Moses spoke to the Lord through the cloud just as a man speaks to his friend”

B. Abrahamic **“Promise”** is made in Gen. 12:1-3

Abrahamic **“Covenant”** is made (cut) in Gen. 15:1-6

1. God (the greater) chooses Abram (the lesser) God's Grace
2. God becomes Abram's *shield* and great *reward* (money purse)

Reward: Hebrew word #7939 *sakar* (saw-kawr')

“payment of contract; concretely, salary, fare, maintenance; by implication, compensation, benefit”

3. Abraham believed God and it was reckoned unto him as righteousness, but he was not called God's friend until later
 - 2 Chron. 20:7 Abraham is called **“a friend of God forever”**

C. James 2:20-25**Abrahamic Covenant Sets The Standard For Becoming God's Friend**

1. Abraham's faith was perfected by his works of obedience
2. His obedience made him a friend of God
3. Gen. 26:4-5 Abraham obeyed Torah

D. John 15:10-17**Qualification For Being God's Friend Carries Forward Into The New Covenant**

1. He is our friend, because He obeyed the Father and laid His life down for us
2. We are His friends, **IF** we obey His commandments
3. He (the greater) chose us (the lesser) - Covenant of grace

II. STEP 4: SPLIT AN ANIMAL DOWN THE BACK

A. “Covenant” is the Hebrew word “Berit”

“to select; (in the sense of cutting); a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh)”

B. In **2 Kings 23**, The Sons Of Israel Make A Covenant With God

Jer. 34:18-20 Jeremiah refers to Israel’s transgression of this covenant

“And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not fulfilled the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts-- the officials of Judah, and the officials of Jerusalem, the court officers, and the priests, and all the people of the land, who passed between the parts of the calf-- and I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life.”

1. Ceremony is about giving up your life for your Covenant Partner

- Two are one in covenant just like the animal before it’s spilt
- When they are divide into two parts – they die
- “Just as animal’s life is poured out, I pour my life out for you”

2. Walked in a figure 8 – Signifying infinity (*everlasting covenant*)

3. **2 Kings 23:2-3** Josiah read the words of the covenant

²“[King Josiah] read in their hearing all the words of the *book of the covenant*” ³ And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.

3. The *animal* becomes the “two witnesses” of the covenant

- Marriage Ceremony
 - Couple each says their *vows*,
 - Couple walks the isle between the *guests (two witnesses)*

C. Gen. 15:7-12, 17-18 Abrahamic Covenant

1. God pasted between the bloody halves on behalf of Abram
2. COVENANT OF GRACE

D. In The New Covenant – Jesus Dies To Himself

1. Isaiah 53:12 **“He poured out Himself to death”**

- “Poured out” Hebrew: **“Aw-raw”**
“to spread yourself and pour out”

John 19:34

“One of the solders pierced His side with a spear and immediately there poured out blood and water.”

- Jesus opened Himself up and poured out His very life for us
- He died to Himself and came alive to us.

E. In The New Covenant – We Die To Ourselves

1. Mark 8:34-35 New Covenant Believers Also Die To Themselves

³⁴“And He summoned the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it.”

2. Rom. 12:1-2 We become a living and holy sacrifice

¹“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

3. 1 John 3:16 We Also Lay Our Lives Down For The Brethren

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

III. STEP 5: **EXCHANGE GIFTS**

A. **Covenant Lasts As Long As The Gift Lasted**

1. Trees: last to all generations
2. Livestock: Generations of offspring
3. Land: Lasts forever

B. **Gen. 15:18-21 Gift Of The Abrahamic Covenant**

1. God gave Abram the land of Israel

C. **Gift of the New Covenant**

1. **Acts 2:38-39** Holy Spirit is the gift of the New Covenant
³⁸ **“And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.”**
2. **Eph. 1:13-14** Spirit given as a pledge of our inheritance
¹³ **In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.”**
 - **“Pledge” - *arrhabon* (ar-hrab-ohn'); “a pledge, i.e. part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest” (Engagement ring with promise of marriage to follow)**
3. **John 14:16 “Holy Spirit is with you forever”**

D. **Husbands and Wives Give Themselves To Each Other In Love**

1. Rings are gifts of their covenant – No end to them (eternal)