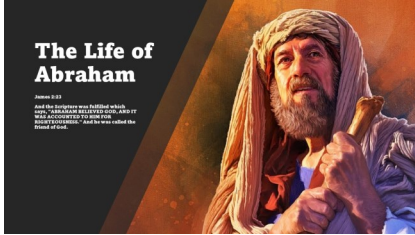


Dr. David Howard



The Life of Abraham—Men Who Were Close To God

Men Who Were Close to God

There are numerous instances in the Bible of men who were close to God, loved by God, and used mightily by God. These same men were flawed because they were still 100 percent men who had not escaped their human impulses to sin. As Christians, we have the almighty Spirit of the living God within us to help us, yet we are still stalked by sin and struggle with temptation. We strive for perfection; to be like Christ but we will never obtain perfection ourselves in this mortal flesh. Our perfection is in the person Christ Jesus our Lord. We do not achieve but receive by grace through faith. In the old Testament.

I. Men Like Moses

With anger issues, in Exodus 2:11-12 murdered an Egyptian, and later saw several flare ups of temper in the wilderness that caused him to wander for 40 years and never being able to enter the promised land.

Exodus 2:11-12 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. (12) So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

II. Men Like Samson,

who with all his strength was repeatedly defeated by his sexual desires in Judges 14:2 and then another woman whom he fell asleep in her lap that later caused his demise.

Judges 14:2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

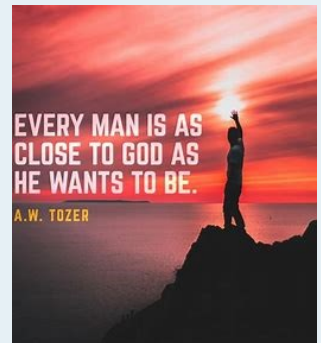
Judges 16:19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

Inside this study guide

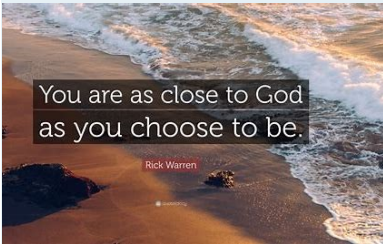
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Credits

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Men Who Were Close to God



You are as close to God
as you choose to be.

Rick Warren



He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
and what doth the LORD require of thee,
but to do justly, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God?
Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8



A half
truth is a
whole
lie.

III. Men like King David, King Solomon,

A man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) LET the lust of his eyes sink him to an all time low. His life was ruined by a sex scandal and murder in 2 Samuel 11 and unfortunately passed on this desire for women to his son, Solomon. In 1 Kings 11:9, 10 gathered to himself many wives and concubines that led the King and the kingdom into idolatry.

IV. Men Like Ministers

How many pastors have been kicked out of churches because of sin by 'rock throwing' sinful people who would be totally embarrassed if their sins were known. It's the old story of the pot calling the Kettle black. We elevate in our minds these men from their humanity to unobtainable heights because so many Pastor's project that perfect image and when they fall, we let them crash and burn instead of lovingly support them to restoration in their journey with God.

V. Men Like Abraham

Genesis 20:1-8

And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. (2) Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. (3) But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." (4) But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? (5) Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." (6) And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. (7) Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." (8) So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.

First of all Sarah was very beautiful even at sixty five she was turning heads and causing Abraham to worry about being killed so that other men might have her and now, at 90 years old she is still a good looking woman!

The embers of fire from the two destroyed cities is still glowing as Abraham picked up the stakes to his tent and moved to Gerar. You would think by now he would have learned his lessons from the past and certainly be warned by what he just witnessed. However, Abraham is human and he tells a half lie once again.

Men and Women Like You

In Truth each person, each group displayed flaws just like all of us. Although this study focused on the men, it is true with women as well.

We have seen the downfall of people in these areas.

1. Anger Issues
2. Sexual Desires
3. Idolatry
4. False Image leading to unobtainable expectations.
5. Thinking Half truths won't hurt when in fact they are lies.

The Old Testament law existed not just to give us the framework for government or provide us with a moral compass. It show us that each one of us are sinners in need of a Savior. Keeping the law could not save us and get us into Heaven. Only Christ Jesus could. Pay attention to Romans 8:3 especially.

Romans 8:1-4 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) **For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,** (4) that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The law condemns us to death because of sin, Christ pays our sin debt and saves us if we repent and ask for forgiveness and for Him to save us.

Are you forgiven? Have you received Christ into your heart as your Savior? Do it now before it's too late.

How Can I Go to Heaven?

1. Realize you're a sinner.

Romans 3:10 *As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;*

Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

2. Know God loves you.

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. God's love is through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

4. Confess, Believe, Accept.

Rom 10:9,10 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your*