



Receiving Christ: A Devotional for the Believing Man

Inspired by John 1:12 (ESV)

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Receiving Christ.

It is a phrase I have heard many times before. Receive Christ. Believe in Christ. But as I reflected on John 1:12, I found myself asking a simple question: What does it mean to receive Christ? When I think of receiving something, I think of receiving a gift with gratitude. When I think of receiving someone, I think of welcoming a guest with honor. I think of making room for them, preparing for their arrival, and hoping they will enjoy their stay. We know from this verse that those who believe are those who receive, but as I reflected on this passage, I began asking myself whether my life reflects one who has received Christ and where my belief may still need deeper devotion.

Genesis 18 came to mind.

There, Abraham receives the Lord under the oaks of Mamre. Not as a formula for salvation or as a means of earning God’s presence, but as a picture that may help us reflect on our own response to belief in Jesus. Can Abraham’s physical reception of the Lord help us reflect on how we spiritually receive Christ? Does the believing man receive Christ with the same eagerness, humility, honor, and desire for His presence? Let us consider Abraham’s response and compare it with other passages of Scripture as a means of reflecting on our own.

1. Do I seek a relationship with Jesus?

Abraham’s first response to the Lord was **to run to Him**.

“...he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth” (Genesis 18:2)

Abraham’s approach to encountering God was deliberate, immediate, and with confidence. Is ours the same?

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.” (1 John 2:28)

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

2. Do I worship Jesus?

Abraham’s second response was **worship**.

“...and bowed himself to the earth” (Genesis 18:2)

Scripture presents worship as more than posture; it reveals who or what is being placed above all else.



"You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

"that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him." (John 5:23)

3. Do I humble myself before King Jesus?

Abraham's next response was **humility**.

"...O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight..." (Genesis 18:3)

Notice the word "if".

Self-righteousness will presume what God wants apart from what He has revealed.

"And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham." (Matthew 3:9)

"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king." (1 Samuel 15:23)

4. Do I desire Christ's presence?

Abraham's next response was a **desire** for the Lord to **remain**.

"...do not pass by your servant." (Genesis 18:3)

To be near the Lord is to be near the source of life and every good thing that proceeds from Him.

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11)

"For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works." (Psalm 73:27-28)

5. Do I remain in a right relationship with Him?

Abraham brought out water so they could **wash** the dust of the journey from their feet.

"Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet..." (Genesis 18:4)

Though made clean in Christ, a believer's feet will still gather dust while walking through a world of sin and death. Yet Jesus teaches us to ask for forgiveness and forgive others so that we may remain in close fellowship with Him.

"and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)



Jesus said to him, *“The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean...”* (John 13:10)

6. Do I honor Christ through my service and preparedness?

Abraham **serves** a morsel of bread, a calf tender and good, and curds of milk **prepared** in honor of the King.

“And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.” (Genesis 18:6-8)

The fear of the Lord produces honorable service and the integrity to remain ready for whatever God requires next.

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.” (Matthew 24:44-46)

7. Do I place all that is under my care at the feet of Jesus Christ?

Abraham brought those under his care into **participation** with the Lord’s presence.

“And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah...” (Genesis 18:6)

“...and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.” (Genesis 18:7)

All that you have and all that you are called to care for are His, and through these He allows us to participate in what He is already accomplishing for His glory.

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” (1 Chronicles 29:14)

“Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.” (Acts 16:30-33)

Can you see how Abraham received the Lord as a guest and, in comparison, reflect on whether you spiritually receive Christ with the same attitude of honor, respect, and enthusiasm?



Abraham's actions did not earn God's presence, but they give us a picture of what faith may look like when it receives Christ.

Closing Passage

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.''' (Revelation 3:20-22)