

## True Love

By: Rabbi Yosef Vogel

One of the greatest things we cherish and hope for in our lives is loyalty and friendship. Our life experience is enhanced when we can share them with friends who we can trust and who care for us. The Talmud goes to the extent of summing up the quality of life in one word: friendship.

Yet, what is friendship and how do we achieve it.

For thousands of years G-d was looking for a partner whom he could trust. In creating an imperfect world, G-d needed someone whom he could depend on to bring this world to its perfect state. For close to two thousand years he did not find anyone to fulfil this role, until he met Abraham. However before he could be sure that Abraham was his man, he would have to be tested in the most profound way.

Abraham's life was a series of tests that would try his most profound motives in his dedication and loyalty to the ideals he represented. After much trial and tribulation he proved to G-d and himself that His relationship with G-d was pure and total. Nothing stood in the way of fulfilling G-d's command, even though it went against every fibre of his being. And it is this quality of self sacrifice that is the ultimate barometer of true dedication and friendship. Because in friendship to another, it is not about oneself that we should be concerned but about others. And to the degree that we sacrifice our own interest for the sake of others we become close to them.

A fair weather friend is nice to have but not one we can depend on. True friendship and love is measured by the amount of sacrifice one invests into the relationship. The more sacrifices we make in our relationships, the greater the bond. It was only when Abraham showed this level of dedication to G-d that he became the first Jew and ensured this title for all his descendents to come.

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11 November | 14<sup>th</sup> Cheshvan

**Vayera**

Shabbat Begins: 4:02 pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:06 pm