

## Genesis 13:2

*Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.*

When we think or hear about Abraham, what is the first thing we think about? Very likely what he is known for, which is.

† **James 2:23 (NLT2)** *And so it happened just as the Scriptures say:  
“Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”  
He was even called the friend of God.*

Faith, that’s what Abraham is known for, as being a man of faith, the father of faith, and rich in faith. But not only a man of faith, but also *“the friend of God.”* And we all want to be like Abraham, men and women full of faith like Abraham had, so much so that we would feel comfortable being called *“the friend of God”* as well.

Yet we don’t seem to strive for that aspect of Abraham, instead we pursue something that Abraham is not really known for, yet in our day and age, we make this one thing about Abraham, the main focus, and Abraham’s faith in God, and even being a friend of God, taking a backseat to it. What is it?

It’s today’s devotional verse.

*“Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.”*

When was the last time you thought of Abraham as being rich, and having the big bucks? Very likely never, or only when we read today’s verse in the bible. In fact, this is really the only account where I read that it says this about Abram (or Abraham). No where else in the bible does it ever talk about Abraham being rich, even though he was as we read further on that he had 318 trained servants.

† **Genesis 14:14** *Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

Or today we may think of them as his employees who lived with him. Also these 318 were only the men, and we did not take into account the women and children of these men. So it could be well over 500 – 600 people under Abraham.

Yet even though the bible puts no emphasis on Abraham’s riches, but speaks many, many times about his faith, why do we tend to think more of riches than faith? We even think, *“Well, if I had Abraham’s riches, I would have faith like him as well, and boy would I be a friend with God for giving me such riches.”*

The problem is that we make the mistake of associating faith and finances or riches as the same thing. We tend to think that the more we have, the more faith we have because God is blessing us because of our faith. But they are not the same and once again, faith and finances do not go hand in hand, nor does the bible even teach that.

If you or a loved one has cancer, will our riches make them better? If our child is sick ready to go home to Jesus, will our riches make them better. When a family has experienced a tragic thing in their life, like divorce or someone living an ungodly lifestyle, heading straight for hell, can we buy them happiness or comfort?

We could go on and on and even though it's not a sin to be rich or to be well off financially. If our faith and trust is in our riches, we are pretty much saying that we don't need God, because I have everything covered with what I have financially. That's not faith, that's taking temporary comfort in our physical and financial happiness. It's not walking with God, but rather saying, "*I trust is God, because it says so on my money (IN GOD WE TRUST).*" But not because we walk with Him daily and because the bible, His word, tells us to trust Him in faith.

So, with this being the beginning of a New Year, let's learn to be content with what we have, not pursuing riches, but rather pursuing a closer relationship with God, and have our money be a means to pay our bills, and help others, but not a means of having faith in God.

*"Father, help us this year to truly put our faith in You. To be more like Abraham, men and women of faith who are known as "Friends of God" and not friends of stuff. Father, we trust You to take care of us, because our faith is in Your heavenly riches in Christ Jesus, and not the riches of this world. Amen"*

† **Philippians 4:19-20 (NLT2)** *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.*

† **Philippians 4:11-13 (MSG)** *Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.*

† **Hebrews 13:5-6** *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*