

FRIENDSHIP THE CORE OF RELIGION

a book, not a creed, not a doctrine, but God Himself. All that leads us nearer to Him and gives us a fuller grasp on His nature and His purposes, this we must hold with all the power that is in us. And then, how many of our problems are solved, how many things that looked unreasonable and unreal glow with the divine light of reason and of purpose. When Newton discovered the great law of gravitation, how simple the falling of apples, the springing of waters, the flight of planets and of stars were seen to be. When the great principle of evolution was observed, how many things that seemed mysterious were explained. So in the light of the great thought of religion as friendship with God many dark places in the story of the race become bright and full of significance.

Abraham overshadows every other figure in his influence upon Israel, and even to-day his name is a household word wherever the influence of Israel or the Gospel of Jesus has gone. And why? He is called the friend of God. He entered into the secret of friendship with the Divine, and the heart of man felt that somehow here was the secret of religion; here was the thing his