

# THE I-THOU KEY

## I. The Key to Understanding God's Friends

### A. Abraham (II Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23)

[2Ch 20:7 NIV] <sup>7</sup> *Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?*

[Isa 41:8 NIV] <sup>8</sup> *“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend,*

[Jas 2:23 NIV] <sup>23</sup> *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend.*

### B. Moses (Exodus 33:11; Deuteronomy 34:10)

[Exo 33:11 NIV] <sup>11</sup> *The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.*

[Deu 34:10 NIV] <sup>10</sup> *Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,*

## II. The Key to Understanding the Fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 22:36-40)

<sup>36</sup> *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

<sup>37</sup> *Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

### III. The Key to Understanding the Error of Idolatry (Isaiah 45:20; I John 5:21)

[Isa 45:20 NIV] <sup>20</sup> *“Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.”*

[1Jo 5:21 NIV] <sup>21</sup> *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

### IV. The Key to a Proper Handling of Silence and Tension (Luke 2:18,19)

<sup>18</sup> *and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.* <sup>19</sup> *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

A. For four hundred years, between the old and new covenant, the people of God tried to resolve their tension in waiting with four groups.

1. The Sadducees \*Doubt - the rationalists who doubted God and denied the supernatural.
2. The Pharisees \*Exclusivity - ritualism without power.
3. The Zealots \*Resistance - all perceived oppression must be fought at any cost.
4. The Herodians \*Accommodation - those who fully identified with and accommodated oppression.
5. The Essenes \*Escape everything - those who withdrew from everything.

B. We can “doubt,” be “exclusive,” “fight everything,” “accommodate,” “flee everything,” or become God’s factories of peace.