

# THE I-THOU KEY – PART 2

## 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 Understanding All Addictive Practices

A. All addictive acting-out involves I-It mood alteration that has life damaging consequences.

B. Whether the object be alcohol, food, sex, illicit drugs, shopping, gambling, romance, etc. (whatever the object may be) all such acting-out can be reduced to subject-object, I-It, pseudo- (inauthentic) relationships.

C. All addictive acting-out involves “something” other than an authentic I -Thou human relationship.

D. I-Thou relationship is heaven. I-It relationship is hell.

### V. 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.
- C. These were all I-It groups that fostered reductionistic, cult-like allegiances. Systems that blocked adherents to I-Thou union vertically with God. (Though there is always a remnant possible, like Nicodemus among the Pharisees) (John 3.)
- D. An I-Thou is personal, direct, dialogical, and nothing is held back. You aren’t looking for anything or trying to get anything. You are completely present in the here and now. Human development occurs only in a relational context.
- E. With an I-It, you treat the other as an object lacking human connection. Relating from only a part of your being.