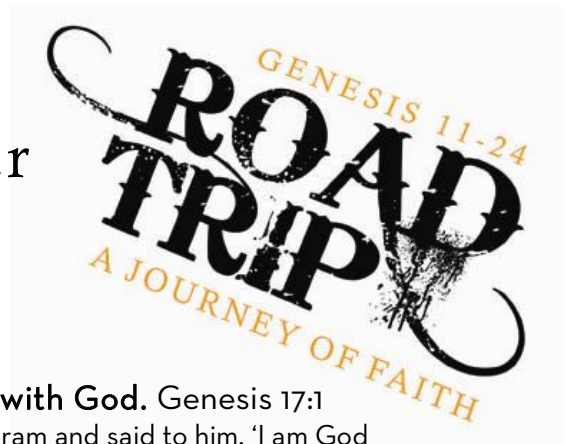




Obedience On Our Journey of Faith

Genesis 17



I. Obedience is motivated by a _____ with God. Genesis 17:1

“Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.’”

Genesis 28:3; 35:11-12

Walk blamelessly =

I Peter 1:19; Colossians 1:28; 4:12

II. Obedience gives evidence of a _____ with God. Genesis 17:2-4

“‘I will establish My covenant between Me and you and I will multiply you exceedingly.’ Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, ‘As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you.’”

I Corinthians 11:23-30

III. Obedience reflects my new _____ in Christ. Genesis 17:5-8

“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations”

II Corinthians 5:14-21

Abram =

Abraham =

IV. Obedience can be very difficult. Genesis 17:9-18

“God said further to Abraham, ‘_____, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.’” vs. 9

- I am tired of waiting for God to work.
- I may be ridiculed for obeying His commands. “Abraham = father of a multitude”
- I may think it is impossible, too hard, to obey Him.
Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old?” vs. 17
- I may resort to my own strength or rationalizations to not obey.
And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” vs. 18

V. Obedience is my commitment to a pure life and constant trust in God’s will for my life.

Genesis 17:21-27; I Corinthians 11:23-30

“‘But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year...’ Abraham... circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him.” vs. 21, 23

Digging Deeper

In this passage, God is calling Abram to “walk blamelessly” in vs. 1 and to “keep My covenant” in vs. 9. In fact, God uses that word “covenant” 13 times to emphasize the nature of their relationship. But for over 25 years Abram has been waiting for God to fulfill His promise to him of bearing a child. It would be easy to give up and wonder why I should keep obeying His increasing demands when He is not coming through for me. Now God asks Abram to be circumcised. For some waiting on God, that may be too much. Abram however is very obedient to affirm his covenant with God.

“Walk blamelessly” is a term used for the kind of sacrifices they are to bring to God. Read **Leviticus 22:21, 22**. Blameless means “perfect or complete.” God wants all of us to be completely His.

Read **Colossians 1:28, 29**. How does one become “complete” in Christ? How are you living in this way?

Read **Colossians 4:12**. What was Epaphras doing to make people “perfect.” How are you doing this in your life?

Read **John 15:10** and **I John 5:3-5**. When you love God, what will you do with His commandments? Therefore, if someone is not keeping His commandments, what does that tell you about their love for God? Are God’s commandments “burdensome” to the one who loves Him? If you have “overcome” the world, what does that say about your relationship with Jesus Christ? If someone is not “overcoming” the ways of the world, what does that tell you about their relationship with Jesus Christ?

Abram had a solid covenant relationship with God which was established in Genesis 15. God alone was responsible for keeping that covenant but He does ask Abram to choose to live by it as well. God asks the same for us. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior and confess our sins to Him, He gives us forgiveness and eternal life. God alone is responsible for keeping that covenant, but He asks us to choose to live by it as well. What does **I Corinthians 11:23-30** teach about our “new covenant” in Jesus Christ? What does God call you to do in response to this covenant?

Abram is given a new name of Abraham which means “father of a multitude.” That is ironic since he is not even the father of one child. But God is telling him that his new identity is based on what God is going to do in him in the future, not from his past.

When we become followers of Jesus, we take on a new identity in Him. We are no longer known for our past sins, but His future plans for us.

Read **II Corinthians 5:14-21** and highlight your new identity in Christ. How does He control us? Who do we now live for? What happened to our old life? What new ministry has He given you today? What is our identity in vs. 20?

Circumcision was a sign of this covenant with God. Circumcision is a sign of purity, separation from sin and loyalty to God. While we do not practice the religious aspect of circumcision today, God calls for us to live with a “circumcised heart.”

Read **Deuteronomy 10:16** and **30:6**. What will you do if your heart is circumcised?

Read **Romans 2:28-29**. What power do you need to be circumcised in your heart?

Read **Colossians 2:9-15**. How should you live if you are circumcised in your heart?

To help prove the truthful and trustworthy character of God, in **Genesis 17:20**, God promised that Ishmael would have 12 sons. That was later fulfilled in **Genesis 25:12-15**. God is good.