



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a bright, colorful band of stars and dust. The overall mood is contemplative and awe-inspiring.

A LIFE DEFINED BY FAITH IN GOD

Listening to God: Participation

GENESIS 17:9-14

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Your work to live this (out) begins with looking to God, with trusting God's character.

I. Look to God: An emphasis on God's character (Gen. 17:1)

- In situational silence
- In the assurance of things hoped for
- In the conviction of things not seen

II. Listen to God: An emphasis on God's Word (Gen: 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our personhood in covenant relationship with God.

Our being (nature) in covenant relationship with God

The details of God's covenant promise in verses 2-8 particularly serve to define Abraham's identity, personhood, and nature in His relationship with God.

II. Listen to God: An emphasis on God's Word (Gen: 17:2-22)

- Listening to God defines our personhood (Gen. 17:3-8)
- Listening to God defines our participation (Gen. 17:9-14)

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

Our doing (actions) in relationship to God. The idea is that of Abraham acting (living) on who God has defined him to be—the father of a multitude.

Abraham's exceeding fruitfulness, his legacy, his future family, and even his very name will demonstrate rich and wonderful aspects of God's covenant nature.

“Walk before Me, and be blameless.”

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

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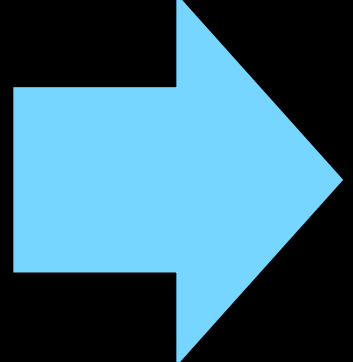
We will live according to who we are in relationship to God.

Your faith in God—your identity as a believer—should be expressed as your loving, obedient, self-denying response to His covenant with you.

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

“Now as for you...” = here is your role, responsibility, and relational commitment to Me as My servant.

 Here is how I will make it possible for you to bear My name, carry My message, and fulfill My purposes...

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

“This is My covenant... every male among you shall be circumcised.”

“and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

What is circumcision's significance in Abraham's covenant relationship with God?

- Circumcision is significant to Abraham's relationship with God because of what it points to, stands for, or represents.
- It is a sign, symbol, and seal of the relationship between God and Abraham.

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

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What is circumcision's significance in Abraham's covenant relationship with God?

- As a sign, circumcision points to something—that's what a sign does. Circumcision reminds and sends a message.
- In a similar way, a symbol represents something else. Abraham's circumcision is a symbol of his separation to God. It reminds him that God has set him apart from the world; God has called him out, or sanctified him, made him holy.
- Circumcision is also a seal of God's love. A seal is a sign or symbol of ownership and authority, as in the seal of a king or official. Those who bear the seal of the King belong to him and, therefore, they are his servants.
- Circumcision represents the relationship of God's ownership, and it reminds Abraham of his debt of submission, humility, obedience, and gratitude.

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The Bible refers to two types of circumcision:

- Circumcision of the flesh
- Circumcision of the heart

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Flesh

- Genesis 17:11; Leviticus 12:3; Luke 1:59; 2:21
- Outward circumcision reminded the Jews that they were evidence of the ongoing faithfulness of God in fulfillment of His promises to bless and provide.

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Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

Heart

- Deuteronomy 30:6, 10, 19-20; Ezekial 44:6-7; Jeremiah 9:23-26
- Most importantly, Colossians 2:8-14

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

Moses is teaching Israel that Abraham was circumcised because he believed God, and He was devoted to God.

Paul is teaching believers how this physical act came to symbolize our spiritual circumcision of salvation by Jesus Christ.

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

The covenant teaches Israel to rightly understand and apply God's commands—to walk before God and be blameless—to understand and live by God's commands as they relate to knowing Him as God Almighty.

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

True Christianity is determined by our relationship with God through the gift of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Listen to God: Know and Trust God's Word (Gen. 17:2-22)

Listening to God defines our participation in covenant relationship with God.

True Christian faith is born in the human heart, a circumcision of the heart, by the miracle of God's grace in Christ.

It is lived out by the miracle of God's grace in Christ.

And it is kept and completed by the miracle of God's grace in Christ, so that no one may boast.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" and "WILLIAMSBURG" is overlaid in white serif font.

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