



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person stands on a small rock or mound of earth. The sky is a deep black, with the Milky Way appearing as a bright, colorful band of stars stretching across the frame. The colors of the galaxy range from purple and blue at the top to orange and red at the bottom. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

LIVING IN GOD'S FAVOR

GENESIS 18:16-21

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

God is just, so God punishes sin. And God is good, so He rewards righteousness.

The Lord has positioned us as His children to have relationships grounded in His goodness.

The spiritual friendship we enjoy with God and one another is defined and empowered by the goodness of Jesus Christ.

What does that mean and look like as we relate to God and each other?

God wants us to live by:

- His heavenly certainties (we help each other live with perseverance in hope)
- His objective truth (we help each other live in obedience to His commands)
- His grace through faith (we help each other to love and serve)

“You are good and do good...” (Ps. 119:68)

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” (Ps. 119:29)

Our passage shows us the care God is taking to reassure Abraham of His goodness, both in keeping His promises to His chosen ones and in God’s execution of His judgment against sin.

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

*“...and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned [accounted/credited by God] to him as righteousness,’ and he was called **the friend of God.**” (James 2:23)*

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

*“By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.”
(Heb. 11:11)*

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?” (v. 16)

This is how we know God's will and purposes for us in our walk with Him. He must reveal them to us or they remain unsearchable and unknowable.

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Why does the Lord choose to reveal to Abraham what He has purposed for Sodom and Gomorrah?

Why does God favor the righteous with the knowledge of His will?

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to trust Him and His ways.

- Pride = 'We are chosen and you are not; we have special privileges and you don't; we are God's favorites and we are better than you,' etc.

Remember who you used to be (an unforgiven enemy of God, separated from Him in your sins).

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to trust Him and His ways.

- Fear = 'God is not fair with me, and He's not helping enough in my suffering/situation.'

Remember Whose you are (God gave His Son for you; He is good, gracious, kind, longsuffering.).

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to trust Him and His ways.

- Apathy = 'God does what He does, and we can't do anything about it. We are pawns for Him to use as His whims dictate, so we learn to make life what we want it to be.'

Remember who you are (You are bought with the blood of Jesus; you are God's child forever.)

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to be encouraged and faithful.

“For I have chosen him...” (v. 19)

Chosen = to know or to become known

God chose you. God chose to know you in His Son, to be one of those made alive and raised up in Jesus Christ... *“so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* (Eph. 2:7)

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to teach His ways to others.

“For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice...” (v. 19)

Dream big. Be obedient. Love well.

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to be blessed in His love.

“...so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him. (v. 19)

Very simply put, living a righteous, obedient life of faith brings God's blessings, and living a wicked, disobedient life of unbelief brings God's judgment.

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

Because He wants us to know His goodness.

“I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.” (v. 21)

“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His...” (2 Chron. 16:9)

“The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.” (Ps. 33:13-15)

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:13)

III. God's Favor (Genesis 18:16-21)

You are favored by God with the knowledge of His will in Christ in Scripture. By the ministry of the Holy Spirit, you have the mind of Christ to know God's will for you in living to please Jesus.

Your suffering, pain, and hardship *do* matter to God. But they are not more important to Christ than His work of using those things to conform you to His image.

The Lord is graciously working in you to see that you do not waste the gift of the knowledge of His will. Discipline yourself in godliness to be a faithful steward with what He is doing in you NOW and with what He is teaching you NOW.

He is preparing you for the next outworking of His purposes in you and for you.

Go big for God. Trust Him with a dream that only He can fulfill through your life.



GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG