



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A LIFE DEFINED BY FAITH IN GOD

GENESIS 17:1



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

Saving faith is *“the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* (Heb. 11:1)

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”
(Heb. 11:6)

“But the righteous man shall live by faith.” (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11)

Covenant: “a biblical covenant is a clear statement of God’s purposes and intentions expressed in terms that bind God by solemn oath to perform what He has promised.” *(Richards, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)*

How important is your relationship with God to you?

What value do you put in knowing God through your faith in Jesus Christ?

How often and how much do you consider what is pleasing to Jesus in what you think, say, and do?

I. Look to God

II. Listen to God

III. Labor for God

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

In Situational Silence

God has made promises which serve to define and govern Abram's life. Abram has just failed to trust those promises made to him by the Lord. How has Abram's sinful failure affected the covenant relationship between him and God?

What does God's silence mean? Has God abandoned Him? Did his sin with Hagar erase God's promises to him? Is this punishment? Is there hope in this failure?

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

In Situational Silence

How do I look to God in faith and maintain an informed confidence in His truth to guide my life step-by-step through every situation?

- You believe and live by what God has said.
- You trust God's answers (in Scripture) to guide you in the moment-by-moment of the here and now, based on what He has already said (and not based on your feelings).

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

In Situational Silence

What God has said, promised, and done in the past and what God has said, promised, and done regarding the future frames how we are to know and relate to Him in the present. That is what Abram must live by — faith in the word, deed, and character of this promise-making, promise-keeping God.

God's perspective on life — revealed to us in Scripture in the past — is what ought to shape, strengthen, and guide our faith in God.

Why is this true?

There is no new revelation.

Look to God in situational silence and look to God in...

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

“I am God Almighty...” This title expresses God's omnipotence — His sovereign power over all things. ‘I am God Almighty, is there anything too difficult for me? I am God Almighty, and I will bring it to pass. I am Sovereign!’

This is humbling because it is a stinging reminder of Abram's lapse of faith compared to God's faithfulness and blessings on Abram's life.

This is hopeful because nothing is impossible with God. The world drags us down with its whining, complaining, worrying, and fear-filled focus.

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

I am God Almighty should be enough to make our hearts soar.

You are small,

your problems are big,

and God Almighty is much, much BIGGER.

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

How are we to explain and live beyond the hurt that any of us feel when life is made nearly unbearable by degradation (humiliation), desperation (fear), the depravity (wickedness) of our own hearts, and the sinful hearts of others?

The valley of humiliation “represents the humbling experiences that God brings into our lives to destroy the sin of pride and to help us develop godly humility.”
(Wayne Mack)

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

“Humility, then, consists in an attitude wherein we recognize our own insignificance and unworthiness before God and attribute to Him the supreme honor, praise, prerogatives, rights, privileges, worship, devotion, authority, submission, and obedience that He alone deserves.... It means having a servant's mind-set and always putting self last.” *(Wayne Mack)*

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

“He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
(Gen. 3:15)

“I will establish my covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen. 9:11)

“... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (Gen. 12:3)

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.” (Matt. 17:22-23)

“‘It is finished.’” (John 19:30)

“... you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here....” (Mark 16:6)

“... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:20)

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Assurance of Things Hoped for...”

Abram (and each of us) must look to God

...in situational silence,

...in the assurance of things hoped for,

...and we must look to God in

“...the Conviction of Things Not Seen”

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Conviction of Things Not Seen”

“It implies a response, an outward manifestation of the inward assurance. The person of faith lives his belief. His life is committed to what his mind and his spirit are convinced is true.” *(John MacArthur)*

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Conviction of Things Not Seen”

Verse 1 goes on to say, *“I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.”*

“Walk before me, and be blameless” is the outward manifestation of the inward assurance. God is commanding Abram to live his faith.

“Walk before Me”

New Testament: *“for in Him we live and move and exist.”* (Acts 17:28)

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Conviction of Things Not Seen”

“and be blameless” refers to godly action done from a humble heart.

*“...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...”
(Eph. 4:1)*

“...but like the holy one who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Pet. 1:15)

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matt. 22:37)

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): An Emphasis on God's Character

“...the Conviction of Things Not Seen”

Be blameless; be whole-heartedly devoted to God so that you:

‘live your faith in faithful obedience to Me, knowing that I am God Almighty by Whom you live and move and exist.’

“For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light... trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:8, 10)

Live your faith!

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" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

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