



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy's bright, colorful band stretches across the center of the frame, creating a sense of awe and wonder. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

A LIFE DEFINED BY FAITH IN GOD: LISTENING TO GOD

GENESIS 17:2-8

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Learn and live what God has said so that you can wisely apply this truth in the issues of life as you encounter them.

Count on your covenant-making, covenant-keeping God!

God's silence is not the:

- Quiet of ignorance — I don't know what to do
- Quiet of lack — I don't understand how to do this
- Quiet of inadequacy — I can't do anything about this

God's silence is about the:

- Quiet of purpose — God's greater good being served.

I. Look to God (Gen. 17:1): Know and Trust God's Character

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

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

- Listening to God defines our personhood (Gen. 17:3-8)
- Listening to God defines our participation (Gen. 17:9-14)
- Listening to God defines our perspective (Gen. 17:15-22)

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

Listening to God defines our personhood (v. 2-8)

Personhood refers to your existence as a created being. It means your individual identity as one made in the image of God. Personhood is who you really are.

It expresses the core of your nature as made in the image of God with a soul to relate to Him. It involves what you are, but even more, who you are in relationship to God.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood (v. 2-8)

We need to see that God's promises concerning His relationship with Abram are the defining factors for Abram's entire life and labor.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

When Satan tries to deceive you away from a sincere and pure devotion to Jesus, when your fleshly desires fight against the truth and goodness of God, and when the world caters to your pride and promotes your selfishness, these are all attempts to corrupt, degrade, or pervert your covenant relationship with Jesus.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

But—considering the life of Israel, the original hearers of this information—what is more important here is that the Hebrew people see the connection between being and doing in relationship to God.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

"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)*

Now look into and through these purposes and promises, and you see God's faithfulness, love, mercy, grace, goodness, compassion, patience, wisdom, etc. — all of these are attributes of His nature.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

What is the significance of God changing Abram's name?

"I am..." is a declaration of being and a description of God's nature.

"...God Almighty" stresses God's sovereign actions which follow from His character and are backed up by His authority.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

"I am God Almighty" in verse 1 is followed with "I will..." in verses 2-8:

- *"I will establish" (v. 2)*
- *"I will multiply" (v. 2)*
- *"I have made" (v. 5)*
- *"I will make... "I will make" (v. 6)*
- *"I will establish" (v. 7)*
- *"I will give... I will be" (v. 8)*

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

God will relate to Abram — concerning God keeping the elements of this covenant — based on who God is.

This understanding of God and His actions in His covenant promises to Abram defines for us the basis on which Abram is to relate to God.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

Abram means exalted father.

Abraham means father of a multitude/nations.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

The covenant God makes with us helps us see God's heart,
and in seeing His heart we are brought into deeper love for Him,
which in turn becomes our motive to listen to Him
so that we learn to trust and obey Him.

We are to look to God and trust His goodness because it is God's character that
defines who we are and how we are to live in covenant relationship to Him.

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

Listening to God defines our personhood

Remember that each point in the outline for this chapter stresses an aspect of God's goodness in His covenant relationship with us.

Looking to God stresses our need to know and trust His character in His covenant relationship with us.

Listening to God stresses our need to know and trust His Word in His covenant relationship with us.

Laboring for God stresses our need to trust and obey His authority in His covenant relationship with us.

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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