

The Means and Measure God uses to Mature our Faith

Sunday, March 29/20 --- Genesis 17:1 – 18:15

When Abram was 99 years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. And Abram fell on his face... Genesis 17:1 – 3

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Introduction:

What kind of Abram do we meet in Genesis 17? Where do we place his spiritual development after the incredulous display of independence found in Chapter 16? What do we do with the 13 years of silence and social distancing between God and Abraham (16:16; 17:1)?

I think the man that we meet in Genesis 17 is one just emerging from spiritual adolescence. He is becoming aware of just WHO he is dealing with and HOW he needs to handle the holy. We meet an old man in years, who is young in faith; but intent on running full stride toward maturity.

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- i. Abraham: An Overview of Three Kinds of Faith
 - Uprooting Faith - asked to _____ (Gen.12:1; Heb.11:8)
 - Waiting Faith - waiting for _____ (Gen.17-18; Heb.11:11f)
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- ii. Abraham: The Timelines of a Maturing Faith
 - Ch. 12 –
 - Ch. 15 –
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 - Ch. 17 –
 - Ch. 22 –
- iii. Abraham: Emerging from Spiritual Adolescence (Signs of Maturity)
 - First Sign – A New Posture before God (17:2 – 3, 17)
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- i. Where would you place your own spiritual development as of right now? (Infant, Child, Adolescent, Young Adult, Mature Believer etc?). Why?
- ii. Is there anything about Abraham that surprises you? Share it with someone. Is there anything about your spiritual life that surprises you?
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The Means and Measure God uses to Mature our Faith

Sunday, March 29/20 --- Genesis 17:1 – 18:15

When Abram was 99 years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. And Abram fell on his face... Genesis 17:1 – 3

I write to you young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:14

Introduction:

What kind of Abram do we meet in Genesis 17? Where do we place his spiritual development after the incredulous display of independence found in Chapter 16? What do we do with the 13 years of silence and social distancing between God and Abraham (16:16; 17:1)?

I think the man that we meet in Genesis 17 is one just emerging from spiritual adolescence. He is becoming aware of just WHO he is dealing with and HOW he needs to handle the holy. We meet an old man in years, who is young in faith; but intent on running full stride toward maturity.

Sermon Outline:

- i. Abraham: An Overview of Three Kinds of Faith
 - Uprooting Faith - asked to _____ (Gen.12:1; Heb.11:8)
 - Waiting Faith - waiting for _____ (Gen.17-18; Heb.11:11f)
 - Sacrificial Faith – asked to _____ (Gen.22; Heb.11:17f)
- ii. Abraham: The Timelines of a Maturing Faith
 - Ch. 12 –
 - Ch. 15 –
 - Ch. 16 –
 - Ch. 17 –
 - Ch. 22 –
- iii. Abraham: Emerging from Spiritual Adolescence (Signs of Maturity)
 - First Sign – A New Posture before God (17:2 – 3, 17)
 - Second Sign – A New Identity from God (17:5 - 6, 15 - 16)
 - Third Sign – A New Relationship (Covenant) with God (17:9 – 14)
 - Fourth Sign – A New Obedience to God (17:23 – 27)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Where would you place your own spiritual development as of right now? (Infant, Child, Adolescent, Young Adult, Mature Believer etc?). Why?
- ii. Is there anything about Abraham that surprises you? Share it with someone. Is there anything about your spiritual life that surprises you?
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