

Faith's Commitment

Abraham—part 8

Genesis 17

July 26, 2026

Reviewing our series on Abraham:

- Week 1: Faith's Beginnings (Canaan)
- Week 2: Faith's Tent and Altar (Centering metaphors)
- Week 3: Faith's Choices (Considerations)
- Week 4: Faith's Fight (Core battles: inner/ outer)
- Week 5: Faith's Promises (Cementing: anchoring)
- Week 6: Faith's Covenant (Covenant)
- Week 7: Faith and Failure (Correcting grace)
- Week 8: Faith's Commitment (Circumcision)

- **Getting to know God better**

*Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "**I am God Almighty**; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."*

- **Walk before me faithfully**

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Before: believe God;
Now: walk before God

Genesis 5:22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God...

Genesis 6:9 Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God...

Colossians 2:6 As therefore you received Christ Jesus, so live in Him rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith just as you were taught abounding in thanksgiving.

- **Be blameless**

Genesis 17:1 ... “Walk before Me and be blameless.”

Blameless-

- **New names; new identities**

Genesis 17:3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:15 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Prov. 21:9 Better to live in the corner of the house than with a woman who is contentious.

1 Peter 3:1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

- **Circumcision: Abraham**

Genesis 17:7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17:9 Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money,

they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

- **Circumcise your hearts**

*Deut. 10:16 **Circumcise your hearts**, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords...*

*Gal. 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will **not gratify the desires of the flesh.***

*Galatians. 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also reap sows. ⁸ Whoever sows **to please their flesh**, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

Colossians 2:10...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh, was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

1 Cor. 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Summary

The points in this message come full circle.

- **God is the God who can do the impossible**
- **By His power I can pursue living blamelessly**
- **I have a new identity that inspires and enables me**
- **I belong to God: my life and heart**
- **He brings life out of death—personally and spiritually**

“Where God requires the impossible, God gives the impossible.” - Augustine