

Obeying the Promise.

Abraham : Lesson 4 of 5 : MANUP.org

Q: How long have you been waiting on God?

Q: Are you tempted to shortcut The Promise?

Your SHORTCUTS become your DOWNFALL.

Genesis 17

¹ When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “*I am El-Shaddai - ‘God Almighty.’* Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. ² I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.” ³ At this, Abram fell down on the ground.

Sometimes God WAITS to the last minute so he can show us his POWER.

⁴ Then God said to him, “This is my covenant with you:

“I will make you the father of a multitude of nations!

⁵ What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called **Abraham**, for you will be the father of many nations.”

⁶ “I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them! ⁷ I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation.”

This is the everlasting covenant:

“I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and ***I will be their God.***”

Q: Who's doing "The Work" of the covenant?

Q: If God is the one DOING . . . what do we DO?

Genesis 17

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "*Your responsibility is to **obey the terms of the covenant.*** ¹⁰ This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep; Each male among you must be circumcised. ¹¹ You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you.

OBEY = "*To Keep, To Protect, To Preserve.*"

***Obedience is doing the RIGHT thing,
RIGHT away, with the RIGHT attitude.***

¹² From generation to generation, every male must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased. ¹³ ***All must be circumcised.*** Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant.

¹⁴ Any male who fails to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for breaking the covenant."

Q: What about Faith vs. Works?

***Obedience doesn't get us INTO God's family,
we obey BECAUSE we're part of the family.***

Galatians 3

⁷ The real children of Abraham are those who put their faith in God. ⁹ *All who put their faith in Christ* share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Obey QUICKLY.

Genesis 17

¹⁹ Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac. ²¹ My covenant will be confirmed through Isaac, who will be born about this time next year.

²² When God had finished speaking, he left Abraham.

²³ ***On that very day*** Abraham took his son, Ishmael, and every male in his household, including those born there and those he had bought. Then he circumcised them, cutting off their foreskins just as God had told them.

Telling God “LATER” is telling God “NO.”

Obey COMPLETELY.

Genesis 17

²⁶ Both Abraham and his son, Ishmael, were circumcised on that same day, ²⁷ along with all the other men and boys of the household, whether they were born there or bought as servants. ***All were circumcised with him.***

Partial Obedience is DIS-OBEDIENCE.

Obey CERTAINLY.

Genesis 18

¹⁸ The LORD said, “Abraham will ***certainly*** become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹ I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just.

Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

“Obey God and leave the results to HIM.”

- Charles Stanley