



WEEK 7: NEXT LEVEL IDENTITY

At age 99, Abraham received yet another message that would level up his faith and relationship with God. This time it comes in the form of a physical sign that will mark him and his descendants for life. The sign was circumcision. This was also the pivotal moment when God gave Abram a new name. This new level of identity will mark Abraham and his descendants as God's chosen people.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 17

OBSERVATION

- The Bible is full of visual reminders. Whether that is to commemorate an event or significant milestone. Visual reminders are important for people. Why is this so?
- In this chapter we find new revelations.
 - There was a new revelation of God as the _____ (17:1).
 - There was a new demand by God to _____ before him and be _____ (17:1).
 - There was a new identification from God which included new names _____ (17:5) and _____ (17:15), and a new practice called _____ (17:10-11).
 - There was a new offspring identified and named _____ (17:16, 19).
- God tells Abram, "Walk before me, and be blameless."
 - What do you think he meant by that? (Read Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).
 - What are some words used to describe a life of faithful obedience?
 - How does one walk with God blamelessly?
- Covenants were often accompanied by signs and symbols of remembrance. Circumcision was given by God as a physical sign of a spiritual reality. What is the significance of this sign?
- Read Colossians 2:11-12. How is circumcision compared to baptism in these verses?
- Both Abram and Sarai were given new names that reflect their new identity. What does the name change signify?

APPLICATION

- What implications does that have for our understanding of the efficacy of signs and symbols observed by the church today? Read Genesis 17:23, 26.
- What do you learn about Abraham that is a good example for us to follow?
- What are some areas of your life where God is spurring you to respond this way?
- Look up the following verses to help you (Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:28-29). It is clearly talking about a spiritual circumcision and it is paralleled with a spiritual baptism, being united with Christ at the time of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27). Why is baptism such an important symbol in our relationship with God?
- Have you been baptized? If not, we have a Baptism Bash happening on July 7th. Sign up and embrace your new identity in Jesus

PRAYER

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." 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. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 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." 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."