



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis

June 10, 2007

## **Origins**

(God's Passion for People)

# **desert breeze community church**

## **“Change Will Do You Good”** Genesis 17

The Christian life is a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ that produces life change. This life change involves becoming more and more like Christ. This becoming more like Christ is known in the Bible as holiness, wholeness, or sanctification.

We are following the story of Abraham known as the father of our faith. His life of faith has been a roller coaster to say the least. Our last view of Abram found him attempting to help God.

Thirteen years has elapsed between the account of Chapter 16 and that of Chapter 17. We can well suspect that these have been years of unhappiness and unrest in their household.

### **A CHANGED PERSON WILL...**

(What does a changed person look like?)

Verses 1-2

#### **1) Have a high view of God.**

“God Almighty” = Heb. All powerful.

(Jer. 32:17; Job 11:7; Matt. 19:26; Phil. 4:13)

#### **2) Practice the presence of God.**

“Walk” Hebrew idiom for fellowship/relationship.

(Gen. 3:8; Ps. 16:8; 1 Thess. 5:17)

#### **3) Live in total honesty before God.**

“Blameless” = Heb. complete, whole, entire, sound.

(Integrity, Sincerity)(Josh. 24:14; Ps. 15:1-2, 51:6, 145:18)

## **A CHANGED LIFE WILL COME FROM...**

(How does life change happen?)

Verses 3-8, 15-22

### **1) Spending time with God.**

V3 “Abram fell facedown, and God said to him.”

V17 “Abraham fell facedown.”

(Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Matt. 6:5-6)

### **2) Reflecting on the promises of God.**

**God’s promises are Personal** (Personal pronoun “you” &

“your” 18xs in four verses), **Powerful** (A work of divine power.

“I will” 10xs in 6 verses), **Permanent** (“everlasting” vv8,19), &

**Pleasurable** (v17 “he laughed”).

(Ps. 1:1-3, 119:25, 28, 50,105, 165)

### **3) Living out of my new identity in God.**

V5 “No longer will your name be called Abram (father); you will be call Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.”

V15 “As for Sarai your wife, you are to no longer call her Sarai

(Contentious); her name will be Sarah (Princess). (2 Cor. 5:17; 1

John 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

Verses 9-14, 23-27 (Rom. 2:28-29; Col. 2:11; Rom. 8:13)

### **4) Cutting away anything that would steal my heart from God.**

Note: At our deepest level, we were created to give our hearts to God (worship). Sin has caused our affections to stray, propelling us to worship creation rather than the Creator. This is called idolatry.

✓ Identify the idolatry below my problem and name it.

✓ Begin to see who Jesus really really is and replace my idol with Him.

June 17 “**Laughter**” Gen. 18:1-15; 21:1-34

June 24 “**How Prayer Works**” Genesis 18:16-33

July 1 “**When the Cesspool Overflows**” Genesis 19

July 8 “**Falling Off the Wagon**” Genesis 20

July 15 “**The Ultimate Test**” Genesis 22



# Growing

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- 1) C.S. Lewis: "The Christian life is not about making nice people, but new people." We don't become faster caterpillars, but butterflies! Explain (2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:3)
  
- 2) Our last view of Abram found him attempting to help God (Gen. 16). What does it mean that the Christian life is not opposed to effort, but earning? (Eph. 2:8-10) How does this apply to the life change process (sanctification)?
  
- 3) From this weeks sermon what does a changed person look like? What is the significance of each one of these characteristics of a changed person? Which of these three characteristics do you need most?
  
- 4) Spiritual disciplines are the things we can do to increase our capacity to experience the presence of God and therefore experience life change. How are they more like a sail boat than a row boat? Dallas Willard – "Non discipleship will cost you more than discipleship." Explain.
  
- 5) Review the four disciplines in our study. Which one(s) are you needing most help with? Ask God now to help you to make them a higher priority. What is your next step in becoming more disciplined spiritually?