

GENESIS 17:1 I AM ALMIGHTY GOD! WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS!

7/22/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE – Billy Graham Choir/George Shea

*Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, if You please,
Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee. (Refrain) Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but
Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. (Refrain) Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

“WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS”! - Gen 17:1 *"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."*

Abraham again appears to Abram:

- Do you ever look at the faith of the Abrahams of the Bible and think that your faith is almost nothing—so weak and so little?
- Do you ever get really tired and discouraged while waiting on/for the Lord?
- At such times, how often do you launch out on your own? Your best ideas? Your Hagar?
- How does the Lord develop faith in us? In you?
- Abraham was known both as a “*friend of God*” and as a “*man of faith*”. Do those terms describe you?
- How “wholeheartedly given over to the Lord” is your present walk?

Gen 17:1a "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram.."

The general scope and summary of the covenant laid down as the foundation on which all the rest was built; it is none other than the covenant of grace still made with all believers in Jesus Christ.

There are great gaps and spans of time between these appearances of the Lord to Abram. In *James 2:23* Abraham is called **the friend of God**. Why, then, would God wait 13-14 years between conversations?

Maybe you're wondering the same thing with regard to your own situation: "Why don't I hear more frequently from the Lord? Why do I go through weeks or months or years when I don't seem to hear direct words from Him in my spiritual ears?" Keep in mind that Abraham was not only called **the friend of God**, but he is also called **the father of faith**. Consequently, **God is making a man of faith out of Abram**, and **He's making a man or woman of faith out of you**. Faith means we walk not by what we see physically, by what we hear audibly or by what we know intellectually. Faith means we hang on, keep on believing to what God said previously. We **just hold on to what God has said or made known to us**. Think back for a moment to a time in the not too distant past when you thought, "This will never work. Everything's going wrong. I'll never make it." Yet here you are today. Why did God allow those things to happen in that way?

- **To teach you to be a man or woman of faith,**
- **To teach you to quietly and confidently believe that God is on the throne,**
- **That He is in control, - That all things work together for good.**

Gen 17:1b "and said to him, "I am Almighty God;"

"I am El Shaddai, the Almighty God." Here is the first mention of this name that occurs 7 times in the Old Testament. “*Shaddai*” itself occurs 48 times in scripture. The King James Version of the Bible translates “*El Shaddai*” as “*God Almighty*”.

- ***El* signifies the right arm, and speaks of strength. *Shaddai* speaks**
- **of a woman's breast, and speaks of nourishment.**

- Thus, God is the mighty One who sees us through with the right hand of His strength as He nurtures us as tenderly as a mother does her newborn baby.

Gen 17:1c “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.”

To a ninety-nine-year-old Abram, God doesn't say, "You're getting old! It's time to retire." He says, "**I want you to go higher. I want you to be wholehearted, to be perfect!**" Thirteen years elapsed between the account of Chapter 16 and that of Chapter 17, and we can well suspect these were years of unhappiness and unrest in the household of Abram. The presence of Ishmael in the home created endless contempt, bitterness, envy, jealousy, weariness of spirit, and rebellion. These thirteen years were designed of God to teach Abram the folly of acting on his own.

- How is Abram to do this? **By walking in the strength and drawing upon the nourishment of El Shaddai.** "Walk daily before Me, and be **blameless (wholehearted, perfect).**" The root meaning of the word is "wholehearted." "**Walk before me and be perfect, wholehearted,**" God says, "**Because I am El Shaddai.**" That is, **I am all-sufficient to make you blameless.** Walk before me, therefore, and be blameless.
- That will be a **life of fruitfulness and blessing**, a life that is **well-pleasing to God**, for it all springs from the realization that the God who lives within us, is *El Shaddai*, the **God who is all sufficient**. It's not as though Abram had not so walked, or had discontinued his walk before God, **but that he would go on to walk by faith in a dependence on Him for everything he wanted, both with respect to things temporal and spiritual; and to walk in all His commandments and ordinances, that He either had given, or should give him; and all this as in His presence, and under His watchful eye, that sees and observes all things, and before whom all things are naked and open.**

Walk Blameless-be holy!

- *Lev 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.*
- *1Pe 1:13-16 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; [14] as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;[15] but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,[16] because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

Walk Blameless-Wholeheartedly!

- *Psa 119:10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!*
- *Psa 119:113 I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law*

Walk Blameless-Perfectly!

- *Psa_18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.*
- *Psa_19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

SUMMARY:

- Like Abram, do you see God increasing your faith through what you are going through?
- What and Who is your concept of "Almighty God"?
- God says, I AM God Almighty, now you walk blameless? He is saying, "Walk before Me and be perfect, wholehearted, because I am El Shaddai." That is, I am all-sufficient to make you blameless.
- How close to Him? How blameless, wholeheartedly, perfectly would you say your walk is?
- How strong is our faith in Jesus Christ? Do we truly believe?
- O LORD, help us to walk daily, so close to You! Blameless; wholeheartedly; perfectly!

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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