

# Great Faith – Father Abraham pt. 2

**(Genesis 17:1-27 nlt)**

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. <sup>2</sup>I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.” <sup>3</sup>At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! <sup>5</sup>What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham,<sup>[a]</sup> for you will be the father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them! <sup>7</sup>“I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants<sup>[b]</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>Then God said to Abraham, “Your responsibility is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility. <sup>10</sup>This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. <sup>11</sup>You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup>From generation to generation, every male child 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.

**<sup>13</sup>All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Any male who fails to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for breaking the covenant.” <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Abraham, “Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>16</sup>And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants.” <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. “How could I become a father at the age of 100?” he thought. “And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?” <sup>18</sup>So Abraham said to God, “May Ishmael live under your special blessing!” <sup>19</sup>But God replied, “No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac,<sup>[d]</sup> and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I will bless him also, just as you have asked. I will make him extremely fruitful and multiply his descendants. He will become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant will be confirmed with Isaac, who will be born to you and Sarah about this time next year.”<sup>22</sup>When God had finished speaking, he left Abraham. <sup>23</sup>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 him. <sup>24</sup>Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, <sup>25</sup>and Ishmael, his son, was thirteen. <sup>26</sup>Both Abraham and his son, Ishmael, were circumcised on that same day, <sup>27</sup>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.**

- Abram was 75 years old when God called him to leave his father's house to a land that he will show him and told him he will be a father to many and have many decedents
- 24 years later the Lord appeared to him for the second time saying the same thing
- In those 24-year period. Abram had only 4 encounters with the Lord. When the Lord called Abram to leave, when he appeared to him when arrived at Canaan, the Lord spoke to him in a vison and now, when the Lord appeared to him again commanding all males to be circumcised as a sign of the convent
- In those 24 years there was years of silents. Not knowing when the Lord would appear or communicate again
- So when the Lord appeared to him at 99 years old. Told him he was changing his and his wife name and promised that Sarah will have a child and his name should be Issac.
- And all his responsibility was to obey the terms of the covenant. Which he and all the males in his camp to be circumcised from generation to generation
- Verse 23 speaks volumes about his faith... the verse starts off by saying "On that very day..."
- "Now faith, is the substances of things hope for, evidence of things not seen" **Hebrews 11:1**
- We don't see Abram second guessing or questioning. Instead, we see him acting in faith
- The promise was must greater than the pain he endure for the moment

- Today, God is still calling us to be circumcised but not of the flesh but of the heart and sinful nature

**(Romans 2:25-29 nlt)**

**<sup>25</sup> The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. <sup>26</sup> And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? <sup>27</sup> In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it. <sup>28</sup> For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. <sup>29</sup> No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise<sup>[a]</sup> from God, not from people.**

- In the old covenant circumcision was just for the jews, but now God is making a new people from the two groups to be united with Christ

**(Ephesians 2:11-18 nlt)**

**<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. <sup>17</sup> He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup> Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**

- When you came to Christ. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature

**(Colossians 2:11 nlt)**

**<sup>11</sup> When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.<sup>[a]</sup>**

- If you try to keep the law of Moses, then you cut yourself away from Christ

**(Galatians 5:1-6 nlt)**

**5. So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. <sup>2</sup> Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. <sup>3</sup> I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. <sup>4</sup> For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. <sup>5</sup> But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. <sup>6</sup> For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.**

- It makes no difference if you are circumcised or uncircumcised the important thing is to keep God's commandments

### **(1 Corinthians 7:17-19 nlt)**

**<sup>17</sup> Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. <sup>18</sup> For instance, a man who was circumcised before he became a believer should not try to reverse it. And the man who was uncircumcised when he became a believer should not be circumcised now. <sup>19</sup> For it makes no difference whether or not a man has been circumcised. The important thing is to keep God's commandments.**

- if you worship by the Spirit of God then you are the ones who are truly circumcised

### **(Philippians 3:3 nlt)**

**<sup>3</sup> For we who worship by the Spirit of God<sup>[a]</sup> are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,**

- Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise, he was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises and because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous

**(Romans 4:4-25 nlt)**

**<sup>4</sup>When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. <sup>5</sup>But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. <sup>6</sup>David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:**

**<sup>7</sup>“Oh, what joy for those  
whose disobedience is forgiven,  
whose sins are put out of sight.**

**<sup>8</sup>Yes, what joy for those  
whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”<sup>[a]</sup>**

**<sup>9</sup>Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles?<sup>[b]</sup> Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. <sup>10</sup>But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised! <sup>11</sup>Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. <sup>12</sup>And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised. <sup>13</sup>Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants**

was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. <sup>15</sup> For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) <sup>16</sup> So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. <sup>17</sup> That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations."<sup>[c]</sup> This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. <sup>18</sup> Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"<sup>[d]</sup><sup>19</sup> And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. <sup>22</sup> And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. <sup>23</sup> And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded <sup>24</sup> for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.