

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

God's Purpose and a Godward Life

Summary

Both chapters (17 and 18) open with a statement about Yahweh appearing to Abraham. In both chapters, God shows his character and the fact that he is our covenant maker and promise keeper. In both chapters, Abraham and Sarah respond in a variety of ways. This passage is a snapshot of the Godward life: As God reveals himself we respond by following him.

Outline

Introduction

The Godward life is the best life. By grace, God interjected himself into our lives. He took the initiative in doing so. We respond by faith and with a heart of worship. In light of that, the Godward life is a life in which we seek to know him for who he really is and then submit in total allegiance to him.

Part 1: In a Godward life, we seek to know God for who he really is...

1. He is God Almighty, El Shaddai – 17.1 and 18.14

2. He demands allegiance – 17.1, 9-14

3. He is covenant maker and promise keeper – 17.2, 4-8, 15-16; 18.10 & 14

4. He elects how he will establish his covenant people – 17.18-21

Part 2: In a Godward life we respond to God in total allegiance.

1. In total allegiance, we worship – 17.3

2. In total allegiance, we strive for faith – 17.17 and 18.11-13

3. In total allegiance, we obey – 17.23 and 26

Personal Application

1. Tozer claims that there is not a problem in the world that is not somehow related to ignoble and improper thoughts about God. How have you seen that to be true in the world and in your own life?
2. Tell a story about a time you grew in your understanding about God. Who and/or what was involved in that conversation? What was the new understanding? How did it impact your life?
3. What is something you currently want to better understand about God? What steps could you take to gain that understanding?
4. How are you doing in personal intimacy with God? Has it been easier or more difficult in this season of your life to invest in your relationship with God?
5. Abraham and Sarah had to strive in faith to believe the unbelievable. How can we practically grow in faith to believe the unbelievable in our lives?
6. Abraham and Sarah certainly showed proper responses of worship, obedience, and service in Genesis 17 and 18. How are you fostering total allegiance to God in your life? In what areas of your life is that more difficult to do? Why?
7. How is God using his Word and this discussion to shape how you think and how you want to live? Is there a change for you to pursue this week?

