

THE POWER OF CHOICE

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

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Read Genesis 17:1-8. Here God does more than repeat a promise. He gives Abram a new name. Abram, meaning *exalted father*, becomes Abraham, *father of multitudes*. The renaming signals the widening of God's covenant purpose. What began with one man and one household now stretches outward to embrace countless descendants who would bless all peoples. Every time Abraham spoke his new name or heard it spoken, he was reminded that God's promise was larger than his circumstances and stronger than his doubts.

Yet this covenant, like all Biblical covenants, carries mutual commitment. God initiates, but humanity must respond. In this case Abraham is told "Walk before Me, and be blameless." This walk is not mere rule-keeping, but a life lived in continual fellowship with God, each step taken in His presence, each day shaped by trust in His guidance. God's promise does not remove human responsibility; it calls forth a faithful response. Abraham is invited to live into the identity God has given him, trusting that the One who renamed him would also be faithful to fulfill His word.

The New Testament makes clear that this covenant was always pointing forward to Christ. Paul writes that "those who are of faith... are sons of Abraham" and that in Christ the blessing of Abraham comes to both Jews and Gentiles (*Galatians 3:6-9*). God's New Covenant people are defined not by ethnicity or tradition, but by faith in Jesus and obedience to Him. In Christ, believers receive new life and a new identity. Apostle Paul prayed for Christians to grasp the vastness of Christ's love and to live in the truth of their new identity as God's people (*Ephesians 3:14-19*). And John wrote in his first epistle of Christians' identity as "children of God" (*1 John 3:1*).

This new identity carries hope, and it also shapes how we live. "Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (*1 John 3:3*). Just as Abraham's new name called him into a new way of walking with God, our identity as God's children calls us into a life of holiness empowered by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. God does not merely rename us; He remakes us. The promise of belonging, inheritance, and future glory becomes the foundation for living the righteous life we were created to live.

Prayerfully consider these questions: How does knowing you are a child of God shape the way you see yourself today? In what ways might God be inviting you to live more fully into the identity He has given you in Christ? And how could your daily walk change if you allowed God's promises – not your past or your fears – to define who you are?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"I am God Almighty;
Walk before Me, and be blameless."
Genesis 17:1

Weekly Affirmation:

**I WILL LIVE BOLDLY AS
A CHILD OF GOD!**

JANUARY 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Genesis
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Watch the Bible Project video on Genesis (*available on the website*).
- Each day intentionally place one specific worry or decision in God's hands through prayer.