

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**April 2, 2017**  
**The Way of Faith**  
**7: Time to Go All In**

**TEXT:** Romans 4:11-12, 16 / Colossians 2:11-12

We are building our faith this year. We are following the way of faith of father Abraham, his progressive obedience, staying put when it's tough, and lining up with what He told you. We saw the responsibilities of blessing. We saw the responsibilities of blessing, and two important questions to the life of faith. We saw the danger of doing it ourselves. Today, it is time to commit to our part of the deal

- 1) **Reminder:** Faith has three basic components:
  - a) Heart content - keep your heart. Prov 4:23 / Matt 12:34 ...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
  - b) Tongue –Your tongue determines your course. James 3:2-15.
  - c) Actions – Faith without works is useless. James 2:26
  - d) Gen 17 gives us two huge insights regarding faith and grace.
- 2) **Name change is game change:** Not just a change of what you do, but a change of who you are.
  - a) Gen 17:4-5: The name of a person stands for that person's character, position, identity. EXAMPLE: Exodus 34:5 / John 17:6 (Amp: I have manifested Your Name [I have revealed Your very Self, Your real Self])
  - b) Eph 3:15 You have a new daddy, a new family, and a new name (Your real self)
    - b.i) Galatians 4:6-7 / John 8:44 / James 1:16-18/ Heb 12:9 / Eph 5:8 Live as children of light!
  - c) Abraham began from that point to introduce himself as “Father of a multitude.” When you know you are in a new family, you change what you call yourself.
    - c.i) What comes out after you say ” I am...” ? Whose opinion do you want to proclaim? Yours or His?
    - c.ii) Start introducing yourself the way I AM says I am...”
  - d) **Action step:** Monitor your mouth. Quit introducing a dead man. Start introducing the New Man.
- 3) **Take the Covenant mark**
  - a) Grace requires works to receive the full blessing offered!!!!
    - a.i) Abraham was saved by grace - Gen 15:6. Now God asks him to take a radical step of obedience, marking his body.

- a.ii) Covenant blessings require an act of response on our part. Joshua 1:11 / 6:2-3. **You don't earn it, you receive it with your actions.**
- a.iii) Gen 17:9-16. God wanted Abraham to go all in.
- b) The mark of the covenant:
  - (b.i.1) Takes place after birth:
  - (b.i.2) The child and the mother were considered unclean for seven days after birth. Lev 12:2-3 / 22:27
  - (b.i.3) Seven- number of completion. Eight:new life and living in the over and above, to super-abound. (Bullinger) If you want to walk in abundant life, take the plunge!
- b.ii) Is required for walking in the full blessing. Abraham was counted righteous in Ch 15. The full impact will not be accomplished without obedience. Compare Joshua 5:2-9.
- b.iii) Is a statement by Abraham that he is committed. God is asking him to mark his own flesh as commitment to the pact. Dt 10:16 a heart commitment
- b.iv) Is permanent. You cannot un-circumcise yourself.
- c) In the New Testament, it is manifest in the act of baptism.
  - c.i) Col 2:11-13 (See the book, “Water Baptism)
  - c.ii) Believe and be baptized: one act Mk 16:15
  - c.iii) Matt 28:18-20. Conversion by faith. Discipleship begins with baptism.
  - c.iv) Is a permanent mark on the heart. You may sin. You will not again be a sinner by nature. Gal 3:26-27 / 1 John 3:9 / Heb 12:7-11
  - c.v) If you want the full blessing, make the act of commitment. Allow the Father of spirits to train you. Commit to a life as a divine training project. Hebrews 12:7-11
- d) **Action Steps:** Go all in!
  - d.i) If you haven't been baptized since you believed, it is time to get 'er done. Sign up, read the book, and let God bless you.
  - d.ii) If God is speaking to you about correction in some area of your life, time to get trained. You make a lousy sinner. Yield to righteousness. If you have tried and failed repeatedly, time to humble yourself and get some help.

**Do it!**