

# **GUIDELINES FOR A GODLY MAN**

## **Genesis 17:1**

**Today we'll consider God's instructions for 99 year old Abraham**

### **I. REMEMBER GOD**

"I am Almighty God"

#### **A. REMEMBER HIS PRESENCE: "The Lord appeared to Abram"**

1. Never forget that God is ever present
2. He is ever present but not always appearing
3. Not seeing or hearing from Him is no indication of His absence

#### **B. REMEMBER HIS POWER: "I am God Almighty" > "El Shaddai"**

1. The eternal One: "I am" > the One who always is
2. The amazing One: "Almighty" means He is able to carry out His promises
3. The gracious One: "Almighty" defines God as the God who is enough, the all-sufficient One!

#### **C. REMEMBER HIS PRAISE!**

1. Revel in and don't rationalize God ... Never lose the awe and never count Him out
2. Glory in God - Jeremiah 9:23-24

### **II. OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS**

- Follow your Father's instructions.

#### **A. "WALK BEFORE ME"**

1. Walk with Purpose ....
  - a. This is pointed: A command
  - b. This is personal: The idea is that of putting forth personal effort
  - c. This is practiced: This is intentional and habitual > a step by step routine
  - d. This is permanent: Back and forth, to and fro > A continuity of action
  - e. This is planned: Note of the recommended rate: Walk!
2. In His Presence .... "before Me"
  - a. Literally: Before the face of God
    - Conscious of His inspection and desirous of His communion
  - b. Choosing Him as your audience > Everyone performs for someone
  - c. Not hiding from Him or moving away
  - d. On His path .... for if you are in His presence you must also be on His path
  - e. In a place where He can bless you (see v.2)

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## B. “AND BE BLAMELESS”

1. Consider your purity ....
  - a. To be blameless is to be upright, unimpaired, having integrity
  - b. God calls for character and conduct to be in conformity with absolute morality
  - c. The goal is maturity .... moving toward godliness and away from sin.
2. By His standard!
  - a. In accord with God’s Word: Lined up with the truth
  - b. God’s absolute standard does not change .... Be “perfect”
    - God’s does not say, “Just do your best”

## III. REFLECT ON YOUR IMPERFECTIONS

### A. OUR NEED

1. We tend to be proud of our accomplishments and blind to our blemishes.
2. Godliness is not pursued by those who think they have arrived!
3. Note things that will lead to repentance and renewal.

### B. ABRAHAM’S NATURE

1. Deceptive (12:11-13) >
  - a. Saying Sarai was his sister
  - b. This was a trust issue between him and God
2. Frustrated (15:1-3)
  - a. Complaining to God that his only heir was his servant Eliezer.
  - b. This was a doubt issue
3. Impatient (16:1-4)
  - a. Taking Hagar to bear his child
  - b. This was a faith issue: A faltering faith and unwillingness to wait - See Psalm 27:14
4. Stubborn (17:17-21)
  - a. Debating with God about allowing Ishmael to be the son of promise
  - b. This is a control issue > God’s versus Abraham’s!

## IV. LEARN FROM WATCHING OTHERS

- By means of application we learn about proper and prohibited behavior

### A. CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

1. Do you trust in God’s care and timing? (13 years ... 24 years)
2. Has your heart been drawn to something unapproved? (Hagar)
3. Have you fallen into self-sufficiency? (“God, let me help You out here!”)

### B. CONSIDER GOD’S CALL

1. God is calling Abraham back
2. God asks us to be ready to repent and return to Him and instructs us in how to do so
  - “Walk before Me and be blameless”

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### C. CONSIDER GOD'S CHARACTER

1. We have an Almighty God: Is anything too hard for Him?
  - Nothing is impossible for God with whom probabilities are meaningless!
2. We have an encouraging God
  - He encourages us to get back, and get right .... you can do this!
3. We have a merciful God
  - Second chances are allowed!

### **CONCLUSION: BE GUIDED, BE GODLY, BE GREAT!**

1. **An Inspiration:** Abraham was the man with whom God deposited the blessing ... now God must inspire him to keep going. > What do you need?
2. **An Example:** Noah in Genesis 6:5-9 > Living amid corruption (5) but maintaining his character (9)
3. **An Exclamation:** Proverbs 20:6 “Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?” (NASV- Updated, The Lockman Foundation, 1995)