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1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Ephesians 1:13

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your grace and love. Thank you for always being with us on our journey of faith. We humble ourselves before you and ask for your guidance to obey your will and follow your instructions. We acknowledge that we often get lost in our own desires and easily overlook your voice and guidance. Please grant us the power of the Holy Spirit to be sensitive to your voice and obediently follow your will without hesitation.

Lord, we believe that obedience brings blessings and spiritual abundance. Help us to deeply understand this truth and cultivate reverence and faith in our hearts. May we not pursue our own plans and ambitions, but humbly submit to your guidance. As we obey your will, may we experience your abundant grace and blessings, and draw closer to you in our lives.

O God, please help us remove anything that hinders our intimacy with you. We confess our sins and transgressions, and we ask for your infinite mercy and grace to cleanse our hearts and minds. Help us to identify and reject anything that controls us and leads us away from you. May our lives become a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, where your glory shines through us.

Lord, as we repent and purify our hearts, please bestow upon us your grace and strength to boldly confront our mistakes and wrongdoings. Help us not to remain superficial in our repentance, but to deeply understand the consequences of sin and turn to you with a changed mindset. May we have pure hearts every day, and may our lives become a testimony to your glory.

Lastly, Lord, as we obediently seek your face, we pray for your blessings and a new sense of identity and purpose. May our obedience be rooted in love and reverence for you. May our lives become vessels for your purposes, and may your light illuminate our path as we live out the identity and mission you have given us. Guide us in every step we take, and may each step be filled with your blessings and grace.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Genesis 35

In Genesis chapter 35, Jacob and his family move from Shechem to Bethel, the place where God appeared to Jacob earlier in his life. God instructs Jacob to build an altar there and Jacob does as commanded. As they journey, the terror of God falls upon the surrounding cities, causing them to refrain from pursuing Jacob's family.

Jacob's household purges themselves of foreign gods and idols, and they prepare to meet God at Bethel. Jacob buries the foreign gods and their earrings under an oak tree near Shechem. They set out on their journey with the fear of God protecting them.

As Jacob arrives at Bethel, God blesses him once again, reaffirming his name change from Jacob to Israel. God promises him numerous descendants and the inheritance of the land. Jacob builds another altar and calls the place El-Bethel, meaning "God of Bethel."

During their stay at Bethel, Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife, gives birth to her final child, Benjamin, but tragically, she dies during childbirth. Rachel is buried near Bethlehem, and Jacob sets up a pillar at her tomb.

The chapter concludes by listing the twelve sons of Jacob, who become the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. Afterward, God reiterates His covenant with Jacob, confirming his new name, Israel.

In summary, Genesis chapter 35 portrays Jacob's obedience to God's command to go to Bethel, the purification of his household, the death and burial of Rachel, and the establishment of God's covenant with Jacob, now known as Israel..

the important verses in Genesis chapter 35:

Genesis 35:1: "Then God said to Jacob, 'Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.'"

Genesis 35:2: "And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, 'Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.'"

Genesis 35:3: "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

Genesis 35:9-10: "Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him. And God said to him, 'Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.' So He called his name Israel."

Genesis 35:11: "Also God said to him: 'I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.'"

Genesis 35:14: "So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it."

Genesis 35:16-20: This passage describes the birth of Benjamin and the tragic death of Rachel during childbirth, followed by her burial near Bethlehem.

Genesis 35:22: "And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it."

Genesis 35:27-29: These verses summarize Jacob's sons and their names, and the chapter concludes with Isaac's death and burial, as well as the mention of Esau and his descendants.

These verses highlight key moments in Genesis chapter 35, including God's command to Jacob, the purification of Jacob's household, the name change from Jacob to Israel, the promises and blessings given by God, the birth and death of Benjamin, and the lineage of Jacob's sons.

Reflection on Genesis chapter 35:

Genesis chapter 35 presents several themes and events that can be reflected upon:

Obedience to God's Call: Jacob obeyed God's command to go to Bethel and build an altar there. This highlights the importance of obeying God's instructions in our lives. We are reminded to listen attentively to God's voice, follow His leading, and respond in obedience.

Purification and Repentance: Jacob's household purged themselves of foreign gods and idols. This serves as a reminder for us to examine our own lives and rid ourselves of anything that hinders our relationship with God. It calls for repentance, turning away from sin and seeking God's forgiveness and cleansing.

God's Faithfulness and Blessings: Throughout the chapter, we witness God's faithfulness to Jacob. He reaffirms His covenant, blesses Jacob, and reiterates his promise of numerous

descendants and the inheritance of the land. This reminds us of God's unwavering faithfulness in our own lives. We can find assurance that God will fulfill His promises and provide for us.

Tragedy and Grief: The chapter includes the death of Rachel during childbirth. This reminds us of the reality of sorrow and loss in life. It encourages us to seek comfort and strength from God during times of grief and to trust in His plan, even in the midst of tragedy.

Identity and Name Change: Jacob's name change to Israel symbolizes a transformation in his identity. It reflects the power of God's transformative work in our lives when we surrender to Him. We are reminded that our true identity is found in our relationship with God and the new life He gives us.

Legacy and Lineage: The chapter concludes with the listing of Jacob's sons, who become the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. This emphasizes the importance of legacy and the faithfulness of God in preserving and fulfilling His purposes through generations.

In reflection, Genesis chapter 35 prompts us to consider our obedience to God's call, the need for purification and repentance, the assurance of God's faithfulness and blessings, the reality of grief and finding comfort in God, the transformation of our identity in Christ, and the significance of our legacy in God's plan. It encourages us to seek a deeper relationship with God, trust in His promises, and live faithfully according to His will.