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## Daily Rice 2023 June 3

Dear God,

In moments of challenge, we come before you, acknowledging and validating the emotions that our friends are experiencing. We recognize that sadness often accompanies unfortunate events, and we seek your guidance in granting ourselves permission to grieve and process these feelings. Help us remember that the difficulties we face do not reflect our personal worth or your divine favor.

We humbly ask for your wisdom regarding the existence of suffering in your mighty kingdom. We understand that this is a complex and philosophical issue, and we pray that you grant us the sensitivity and respect to approach this matter with open hearts, honoring diverse beliefs.

Thank you, God, for the precious gift of free will. You have bestowed upon us the freedom to make choices, which can lead to both positive and negative outcomes. We acknowledge that the existence of evil and suffering can be a consequence of our actions and decisions.

We are grateful, dear God, for the opportunities you provide for our personal growth, character development, and spiritual maturity. Help us to understand that your plans and purposes are beyond our comprehension. We trust that your perspective and intentions are far greater than our own, and we acknowledge that there may be events whose purpose we do not fully grasp.

During times of sadness and struggle, we seek your guidance in reaching out for support from loved ones, friends, or professional counselors. Their presence can offer a listening ear, guidance, and empathy. Additionally, we recognize the importance of engaging in self-care activities such as mindfulness, pursuing hobbies, exercising, and connecting with nature, all of which contribute to our overall well-being.

God, we ask for the strength to remember that experiencing a range of emotions is a normal part of being human. Grant us patience as we navigate through difficult circumstances. May we find solace in our faith, draw strength from our beliefs, and lean on the support of those who care for us.

In your name, we pray,

Amen.

## Genesis Chapter 17

Genesis chapter 17 is a significant chapter in the Bible that recounts God's covenant with Abraham and the establishment of circumcision as a sign of that covenant. Here's a summary of the chapter:

In Genesis 17, God appears to Abram (later known as Abraham) when he is 99 years old. God identifies Himself as "God Almighty" and reaffirms His covenant with Abram. He promises to make Abram the father of many nations and changes his name from Abram to Abraham, meaning "father of many."

As a sign of the covenant, God commands Abraham and all the males in his household, including both biological descendants and servants, to be circumcised. This physical mark would serve as a visible reminder of the covenant between God and Abraham and future generations. Abraham immediately obeys God's command, circumcising himself, his son Ishmael, and all the males in his household.

In this chapter, God also promises to bless Abraham and his wife Sarah with a son, despite their old age. God changes Sarah's name from Sarai to Sarah and assures Abraham that she will bear him a son, Isaac. Abraham laughs at the idea because of their advanced age, but God affirms that nothing is impossible for Him.

### Reflection on Genesis 17:

**Covenant and Faithfulness:** Genesis 17 highlights the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises. Despite Abraham and Sarah's age and their doubt, God remains steadfast in His covenant with them. This chapter reminds us that God is faithful, and He can fulfill His promises even when circumstances seem impossible.

**Obedience and Surrender:** Abraham's immediate obedience to God's command to be circumcised reflects his trust and willingness to submit to God's will. It serves as a reminder of the importance of obedience and surrender in our relationship with God. Abraham's act of circumcision symbolizes the obedience and commitment required to walk in covenant with God.

**God's Timing:** God's promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah highlights His sovereignty over time. They had waited for years, and their faith had wavered. However, God's timing is perfect,

and He fulfills His promises at the appointed time. This encourages us to trust in God's timing, even when circumstances may seem unfavorable or delayed.

**Covenant as a Relationship:** The covenant between God and Abraham goes beyond a mere agreement; it establishes a deep and personal relationship. It demonstrates God's desire to be intimately connected with His people and bless them. As we reflect on this chapter, we can contemplate the nature of our relationship with God and seek to deepen our connection with Him.

Overall, Genesis 17 teaches us about God's faithfulness, our need for obedience and surrender, trusting in God's timing, and the depth of relationship that God desires with His people. It reminds us that God's promises are sure, and He is always faithful to fulfill them, even when circumstances may seem unlikely.