

Game Changing Faith series
week 5 notes - Sarah

Hebrews 11:11-12

By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore, there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that

I. Genesis 15: 1-6

The Promise:

- A. Abraham was 65 and has no heir
- B. God promises an heir that will come from Abraham
- C. Not only an heir, but as many descendants as the stars in the heavens

Genesis 15:6 - "then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

What has God laid on your heart? what does He want to do in your life? do you believe it?

II. The Wait :

- A. 10 years past and the promise was not yet fulfilled
 - **What happens when what you think God is saying, and what you see God doing, don't line up?**

II. Genesis 16:1-3

The Doubt

- A. Sarai begins to wonder? To question, decides to take matters into her own hands
- B. Sarai does not consult God
- C. Abraham does not consult God, fails to lead
- D. Sarai gives Hagar to Abraham as her husband in order to conceive a child and heir
 - **Where in your life have you jumped ahead of the Lord and tried to do things your own way?**

IV. Genesis 16: 4-6

The Consequences

- A. Hagar Conceive
- B. Hagar immediately despises Sarai causing much strife in their relationship
- C. Sarai blames Abraham, treats Hagar harshly

- MOST OF THE TIME WHEN WE TRY AND DO THINGS OUR WAY, THINGS GET MESSY!

When things aren't going the way we want, are we quick to act, or quick to pray?

V. Genesis 16:15 - 17:1

The Wait (round 2)

- A. another 13 years pass
- B. Abraham is 99 and Sarai is 89
- C. Living life, assuming this is the new normal, assuming Ishmael is the heir...

- Is your walk with God an adventure or just "same as usual" day to day? Have you been lulled to sleep?
Ephesians 5:14 - Wake up O sleeper! Now is the time to believe!

VI. Genesis 17:1-6

The Promise (round 2)

- A. Its been 25 years since the original promises God made to Abram about his descendants
- B. God reaffirms His covenant changes Abrams name to Abraham (father of a multitude)

KINGS WILL BE BORN.... NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE KING OF KINGS WILL BE BORN! JESUS!

VII. Genesis 17:15-22

The Promise Clarified

- A. God includes Sarai, changes her name to Sarah (mother of nations)
- B. God establishes his covenant with Sarah and through Isaac
- C. God Promises to still bless Ishmael and make him prosper
- D. Timing still unknown, but Sarah and Abraham were 89 and 99 years old respectively.

GOD STILL BLESSES ISHMAEL...

***GOD WORKS ALL THINGS TO THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM,
WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE- ROMANS 8:28***

- EVEN WHEN WE STRIKE OUT ON OUR OWN AND SOMETIMES MESS UP, GOD STILL TAKES CARE OF US!

VIII. Genesis 18:9-15

The Time is Revealed

- A. 3 men appear to Abraham, one is the Lord, 2 others are angels
- B. Tell Abraham and Sarah that by next year Isaac will be born
- C. Sarah hears the news and laughs in her heart
- D. God calls her out on laughing, Sarah lies and says she didn't. God says yes you did!

-So why was Sarah mentioned in the Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith again?

Sarah was not perfect... Real people Living Real life in the Real world!

Perfection is not a prerequisite for God's Promises to be fulfilled

IX. Genesis 21: 1

The Culmination

- A. The Lord took note of Sarah, her life, and preparations, and her faith
 - do you think she build a crib? made some diapers?
 - If 2 farmers pray for rain, and one sits back and waits and one goes out and starts preparing his fields for the rain... which one really had faith?

-Faith is a verb! don't just believe in God, act on what He is telling you!

-When God promises big things, do we laugh and deny it, or thankfully prepare for it?

Genesis 21: 1-8

- B. Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac
- C. God turns Sarah's laughter at his crazy promise, into laughter at his incredible faithfulness

4 Questions:

-What has God stirred in your heart? Do you believe God can do it?

-Where in your life are you quickly acting on your own when you should prayerfully wait on the Lord?

-Does God need to rekindle a fire in you? Does He need to speak new life into an old dream? Ask Him!

-Where are you just wishfully hoping for something, instead of prayerfully preparing for when God moves?