

Struggling with Doubt (Lessons from Sarah)

Our lesson today is going to be on a subject that I feel every Christian has struggled with at some point in their life. The topic is going to be about *doubt*.

Have you ever doubted God? Maybe you prayed and you prayed, and God never answered, so your faith begins to waiver as you begin to take matters into your own hands. Doubt can weigh down our faith.

Our lesson today is going to be about a Sarah. Sarah was a woman who struggled with doubt, but in the end, she was able to defeat her unbelief.

Hebrews 11:11 says, “It was by faith that Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise.”

How can we be like Sarah and overcome feelings of doubt?

I. Remember that this world is not our home:

In Genesis 12 God spoke to Abraham saying, “Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land I will show you.”

The city of Ur was a wicked city. They became idol worshippers and had forgotten the one true God. The Lord called Abraham and Sarah to get out of that land for something better. They packed up their belongings, left their relatives behind and headed out into the great unknown. It took faith to do what Sarah did. Faith is stepping out into the unknown.

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” God has prepared a place for us, a better place, an eternal place that offers eternal life.

Look at Hebrews 11:16 and notice the word “They.” That includes Sarah, who desired a place that was better, a heavenly country, a city prepared by God.

II. Remember that God will never leave us:

Sometimes Abraham and Sarah forgot. When they encountered a problem, they thought, “How are we going to get out of this? This is a problem we are going to need to solve by ourselves.” (See Genesis 12:10-20.)

Abraham said, “When the Egyptians see that you are my wife, they will kill me and take you with them because of your beauty.”

Even at the age of ninety, Abraham was afraid that kings and princes would fall in love with her bewildering beauty—and he was right on at least two occasions! But both times, Abraham and Sarah found out, God is always with us.

III. Remember that Nothing is too Hard for God:

In Genesis 18:11, we read that Sarah was too advanced in years to have a child. Three angels came to visit and said to Abraham, "Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening in the tent and when she heard what the angels said, she laughed. And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh saying, 'Shall I bear a child since I am old?' 'Is there anything too hard for the Lord?'"

When we say, "I am not able." God says I am able (2 Corinthians 9:8).

When we say, "I don't know if I can make it." God says, "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

When we say, "I can't go on, I'm too weak." God says, "My grace is sufficient, and my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

When it feels like we are alone, God says, "I will never leave you" (Heb.13:5).

IV. Remember that God Keeps His Promises:

Twenty-five years had passed and still no baby. Sarah is now facing a facing serious problem.

After years of failed pregnancy tests, Sarah said to Abraham in Genesis 16, "we're going to make a family through someone else" – Hagar, her servant.

You know what happened. Ishmael was born and Sarah begins to get jealous and hateful towards Hagar. Eventually, Sarah demanded that Abraham send them away. Sarah was in a battle against doubt.

James 1:6 says, "Believe and do not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

Eventually, Sarah finally realized, God keeps His promises!

Genesis 21 says, "The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. She gave birth to a son, for Abraham in his old age."

Ephesians 3:20 says, "With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine."

Close: When do we start feeling doubtful?

Remember, this world is not my home. God is always with me. Nothing is too hard for God. God keeps His promises.