

Sarah: Strengthened by Faith

Ponder: Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Scripture: “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised” (Heb. 11:11, NKJV).

Can you honestly say that, without exception, you have always walked by faith? I certainly cannot, and neither could Sarah. No doubt she knew of God’s promise to make Abraham’s descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. Imagine her yearning to be the mother of those multitudes, and her heartache at remaining childless for decades! In desperation, she gave her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham as a concubine. To that union Ishmael was born. Both Abraham and Sarah probably assumed God would fulfill His promise to Abraham through Ishmael.

But God had other plans! “Sarah, your wife, shall have a son” (Gen. 18:10). Now that would be easy enough to accept but for one issue: Sarah was 89 years old! In the delicate words of Gen. 18:11 (ASV), “the manner of women had ceased to be with Sarah.” That she would bear a son now must have sounded preposterous! No wonder she laughed!

The Lord rebuked her laugh and asked this piercing rhetorical question: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gen. 18:14). Sarah knew the answer to that question, and the Hebrews writer indicates she repented of her unbelief. She “judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many of the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore” (Heb. 11:11-12).

Does your faith waver when human reasoning says His word is preposterous? Think of the resurrection of Jesus. I’ve never seen someone dead for days get up and walk again, have you? It goes against everything we learned in Biology class. The world scoffs at our confidence in the living Savior and mocks our hope for our own resurrection. The same could be said for a hundred other Biblical things the world sees as absurd.

Let the world sneer! Let us, like Sarah, put aside any unbelief because we judge Him faithful who promised.

Song: “Standing On The Promises”

Prayer: Faithful Father, nothing is too hard for You. You have never misled us, and we have no reason to doubt You. May we quickly repent when we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.