

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLEASE GOD

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PART 3: A MIRACLE

There comes a time for every believer when we must have a tangible miracle to keep our faith going. No Christian can labor continuously in faith and never see a miracle or hear from God. The time had come in the lives of Abraham and Sarah when God would give them a miracle which would forever establish their faith.

God would show Abraham and Sarah His power by telling them in advance what He planned for Sodom and Gomorrah. It is important to note that Jesus and the two angels were in the form of men, but Abraham still recognized that he was meeting with Jesus, who represented the Godhead. **Genesis 18:1-2**

Abraham wanted to fellowship and entreated them to a meal which Jesus accepted in order to build a deeper relationship. **verses 3-5**

This was a time of no electricity and all dishes had to be prepared from scratch. Jesus and the two angels must have waited for a few hours while Sarah baked and Abraham slaughtered a calf and roasted it over a fire. Take note that Abraham did not walk but ran to the herd which might have been some distance away from where the tents were located. **verses 6-7**

Abraham served the meal but did not eat with them; instead, he stood like a servant, ready to assist with any request put forth by his guests. **verse 8**

THE CONVERSATION

Sarah never came out from the tent during the preparation and the dinner. The custom was for women not to be present and be out of sight when men came to visit. This is brought out with Queen Esther. **Esther 4:15-17**

Jesus then asked where Sarah was located. **Genesis 18:9**

Jesus and the angels knew that Sarah was in the tent but wanted to make sure she would listen as Jesus announced that Sarah would have a son within the next year. **verse 10**

The Bible records that both Abraham and Sarah were old and that Sarah no longer had her menstruation cycles. **verse 11**

Sarah laughed just like Abraham did when God told him the first time that Sarah would have a son. **verse 12**

Jesus didn't let her get away with laughing and gently rebuked Sarah when He asked, *"Is anything to hard for the Lord?"* **verses 13-14**

The old spirit of lying came out again because of fear. **verse 15**



INFORMING ABRAHAM OF THE COMING JUDGMENT

We then get a rare glimpse into how God thinks because He knew before the creation how Abraham's life would turn out and included him in the plans for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. **verses 16-21**

Abraham had knowledge of the wickedness in these two cities, and when he realized that Jesus and the two angels were going to check them out, he knew the cities would be destroyed. Abraham's true heart was revealed because he cared for people and couldn't see how God would destroy the wicked with the righteous. He made an appeal to Jesus several times. **verses 22-33**

God remembered Abraham's intercession, and even though there weren't ten righteous people in the cities, God spared Lot and his family because of Abraham. **Genesis 19:27-29**

A FINAL LIE

We then receive more insight into the thinking of Abraham and Sarah as they had seen the great power display from God over Sodom and Gomorrah but their faith was still weak. When Abraham and his entourage entered the area of Gerar, the city king and his people were idol worshippers and did not worship the living God. Abraham and Sarah lied because they believed that God wouldn't have power in this area since these people worshiped idols.

Even though Sarah was 90 years old, she still must have been a beautiful woman in order for the king to take her to be his wife. **Genesis 20:1-2**

God proved to Abraham and Sarah again that there wasn't any place or people who were not under His control and she was returned to Abraham. **verses 3-12**

Abraham and Sarah had made a covenant to lie when they left the city of Haran. Even though Abraham wasn't sure if he could keep Sarah as his wife, he was still willing to leave Haran and obey God.

We can see that Abraham was obedient but was also ruled by fear and did not believe that God could fully protect him. **verses 13**

Abraham then moved in his role as a prophet and prayed for King Abimelech. **verses 14-18**

THE MIRACLE

It was twenty-five years later after they left Haran, with Abraham being one hundred years old, that Sarah finally conceived at the age of ninety.

It must have stunned Abraham and been a shock for Sarah when she realized she was pregnant. **Genesis 21:1-7**

SUMMARY

The name of Isaac (laughter) was given to remind Abraham and Sarah that both had laughed when God had announced He would give them a son. We can see that God wants us to remember the times of unbelief and think about the

miracles He performs every day. Abraham and Sarah could really laugh and have joy in the Lord when they saw Isaac. **Deuteronomy 6:20-25**

It takes time for God to build faith in His people. Faith is not something you decide to have but a gift that is imparted when we feast on God's Word. **Romans 10:17**

Abraham and Sarah learned to trust God as a couple. What most people don't think about is that they had to do their part by having sexual intercourse on a regular basis even though there would be no conception. They continued out of duty and one day their obedience finally paid off as Sarah conceived. As a Christian, you must come to the place where you refuse to give up as long as there is life and hope. **Galatians 6:7-10**

It took God 25 years to prepare Abraham and Sarah to have their son. Why? God could have given them a son as soon as they entered the Promised Land, but all their character flaws would have been with them, and there would have been no story of God's great promise to tell Isaac and the grandchildren to come, which also includes Christians who have been grafted in as heirs of Abraham. **Romans 4:13-25**

How many years have you been journeying in the Promised Land? How is your obedience? How is your faith?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?