

The Power of Faith

Hebrews 11:11-12

Introduction

This week's story of faith has both Sarah and Abraham at its center. Sarah was in an impossible situation. She was unable to have children and also past childbearing age. God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son. When Sarah first heard this promise, she laughed at the thought that this could happen given the facts. Not only did she laugh, she tried to manipulate the situation when she didn't see God keeping His promise. Sarah decided to move ahead in her own power by giving her maid Hagar to her husband. In doing so, she not only delayed God's promise, but she also created a mess that continues today between the Arabs and Israel, due to Ishmael's birth to Hagar.

However when Abraham and Sarah stopped laughing and started trusting, God gave Abraham the ability to have seed, and Sarah the ability to conceive. When they operated in unity, according to God's promise and took Him at His Word, God produced a miracle.

Many people today are facing similar scenarios. They feel barren – as if God's promises are just not going to happen. They feel as though nothing can change in their life's situation. Many times God's children choose to manipulate their life circumstances to attempt to force something in a way that God has not prescribed. This only delays seeing the power of God at work.

We must have faith and believe that God can transcend that which is humanly impossible. We must also understand that our attempts to make things happen can delay God's power working in our lives. Don't let unbelief stop the miracles that God wants to perform on your behalf. We can learn from the story of Abraham and Sarah, that believing God and waiting on Him is best.

Getting Started

1. Why do you think it's so difficult for us to wait on God?
2. Have you ever laughed, scoffed, or snubbed your nose at something that God asked you to do, or something He would do on your behalf, based on His Word?

Let's Get Personal

1. What is your "impossible"?
2. Do you believe God for the impossible based on a particular promise in His Word? Share that with your group.
3. Waiting on God to move requires the discipline of patience. How do you manage to wait on God *well*? What encouragement would you share with someone who is having difficulty waiting on God to work in his or her life?
4. Have you ever been tempted to manipulate or have actually manipulated a situation because you felt God was taking too long?

Take the Next Step

1. What will you do differently this week as you choose to wait on God rather than make things happen on your own?
2. Many times we say we believe, but how we talk about what we actually expect God to do, is quite a different story. How will you speak about your impossible situation in light of what you believe God can and will do? Share a "believing statement of faith" with your group.
3. Do you have encouragement to share with someone in your group struggling with discouragement as they wait on God? Have you seen God work in impossible situations in your own life? Share and/or pray with that person.

Renew Your Mind

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen..." Hebrews 11:1

