

Hard Lessons

November 7, 2010
Genesis 16

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
Pastor Mark W. Turner

1. Waiting

1a

A. It is through "faith & patience that we inherit promises"

- Heb 6:12; God's Timetable is perfect for His glory: Heb 11:11-12
- Ask Yourself:
 - Do you often wonder why God is waiting so long in your life?
 - Do you often wonder why a person is in your life?

B. Willingness to wait on the Lord *in faith* (TRUSTING) is evidence that you are walking by faith.

- God's People: Isa 28:16; Promise Restated: Rom 10:11
- Ask Yourself:
 - Are you dismayed about God's timetable for your life right now?
 - What circumstance are you demanding God fix w/o His ways?

C. Faith Acts only on the authority of God's Word

- Rom 10:17 - must know & hear Word Psa 119:11, 42, 101, 133
- Word⇒Faith⇒Obedience: John 14:15
- Ask Yourself: Does God's Word drive EVERY action in my life?

D. Acting (obedience) in Faith will give joy & peace

- Rom 15:13 After Rom 12:1,2,14;chp 13 & 14
- God uses waiting to increase faith & Godly character Jms 1:2-7
- Ask Yourself: Is the lack of joy & peace in my life God's discipline?

2. Scheming

1b-4a

Faith is living without scheming

- Sarai said "It may be..." NOT "Thus saith the Lord"
- Sarai's focus on SELF v2: 'kept me'; 'perhaps I can'
- Sarai doubted God's provision/goodness like Eve: Gen 3:1-6

3. Fighting

4b-6

When you follow ways of world, you will end up fighting & warring like the world.

James 3:13-18

- God's ways: good conduct; meekness; pure; peaceable; gentle; open to reason; full of mercy & good fruits. Gal 6:7; Gal 5:19-21
- We often live as practical atheists - Gal 3:3; Rom 3:10-11
- Sarai sinned(5); Hagar responded in sin (4b) ⇒ James 4:1-10
- Sarai & Abram should have GONE BACK TO GOD!
 - Sarai: blamed her husband, mistreated servant
 - Abram: gave in & abdicated spiritual leadership; not protect servant
 - Hagar: tried to run away from her problems

This WEEK read Gen 16 & James 4:1-10. Examine YOUR life and ask God to (Psa 139:23-24) show you what you are desiring more than Him. Ask yourself if quarrels, strained relationships, desires, etc. are God's way of 'seeking' you?

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