

FAITH THAT OVERCOMES BARRENNESS

Lets get straight to the word.

Hebrews 11:11 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.

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us in the middle of a series entitled UNWAVERING FAITH.

- We have a beautiful scripture here, telling us of Sarah a woman who ended up getting a child in her old age. Sarah found herself in a fix where God intended to use her but she had no capacity in and of herself to fulfill what God wanted to do.
- God had promised Abram that he was going to be a father of a great nation but for that to happen, it needed Sarah his wife to bear him children.
- Looking at the physical condition of Sarah, it was improbable for her to bring about children – You can say the odds were stacked against her.
- Have you ever been in a situation in which the odds were stacked against you like Sarah? This morning I want to talk to you on a subject matter **FAITH THAT OVERCOMES BARRENNESS**
- Like Sarah, each one of us has been through those moments where physically it looked impossible, improbable.
- What do you do when all hope is gone, when a situation has overstayed its welcome in your life, what do you do when God has been silent for more than 5 years concerning a certain area?
- By faith Sarah received strength to conceive seed – the starting point of her was that she considered him faithful, the one who had promised.
- Your odds will remain stacked against you as long as you are focused on them.
- When you tap into the Sarah type of faith, your odds will turn into blessings.

Genesis 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. 8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. 9 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent." 10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time

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of life, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

1. God knows you by name

Genesis 18:9 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent."

- Whilst Abram was entertaining God – one of his guests was actually Christ incarnate, Sarah was remembered.
- When you have not seen God moving in your life for too long, it is possible for you to think you are forgotten.
- Sarah was there but not there; she was in the area but not visible. Because things have been quiet for a long time, you have started to lose your confidence.
- There is a word for you today – God knows you by name; Sarah God knows you by name.
- God knew you before your mum knew you, God gave you the name you have.
- It will take faith for you to know that God has not forgotten you.

Isaiah 49:15,16 (MSG) "Can a mother forget the infant at her breast, walk away from the baby she bore? But even if mothers forget, I'd never forget you - never. Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands. The walls you're rebuilding are never out of my sight

Zechariah 2:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

8 For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me[a] to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

- There is no greater level of provocation that amounts to touching another person's pupil and God is saying touch my people and you will experience my response.

2. Your situation requires the word of God – expose your situation to the seed of the word.

Genesis 18:10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

- Barrenness had almost become Sarah's second name – she had been in that state ever since she got married.
- God knew her situation, God knew her age but He still released the word.
- There is nothing that can change in the absence of a spoken word. There is no situation in my life that can not be dealt with by the word of God.
- Your pain needs the word from the Lord, your disappointment needs the word of God.
- Medically speaking, it was impossible for Sarah to bear a child.

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- Sarah needed to hear the word for the word to be planted into her spirit man.
- The word is the seed that has potential to produce an Isaac for you.

3. Create the right environment for the seed to grow

- It is one thing to have seed but it is another thing to ultimately get the harvest. The seed can die under the ground if the soil condition is bad.
- The parable of the sower teaches us that the problem is not with the seed but it is with the state of the ground - Matthew 13:1-23.
- Sarah got the seed planted, but was the seed going to produce the thirty fold, sixty fold or 100 fold.

Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

3.1 Align your attitude with the potential of the seed (the word of God)

- Sarah saw the promise as highly improbable and she laughed in her heart – the bible says she laughed within her.
- You might not speak out your doubt but your heart betrays you and the Lord knows the state of our hearts.
- We laugh when our situation looks impossible. What word has made you laugh recently?
- Talking about the Israelites, the bible says they heard the word but the word was of no benefit to them because it was not mixed with faith.
- You need to make way for the word to have its perfect work in your life.
- Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus until he placed his finger in the wounds of Jesus.
- The Lord challenged Sarah about her laughing –13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'
- God was serious about the word He had released.
- When God speaks, He means what He says

3.2 Focus on the source of the promise and not the promise

Genesis 18: 14a "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

- The power is not in the promise but in the one who makes the promise.

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- God wanted Sarah to remove her eyes from the prevailing circumstances to the ability of the one who had made the promise.
- Instead of focusing on the content of the promise and getting that to trip you up, you need to consider the size of your God.
- Zacharia the father of John the Baptist had the same case of unbelief and God made him mute for the duration of the pregnancy – sometimes God will have to use unorthodox means in order to establish His will on earth.

3.3 Wait on the seed

Genesis 18: 14b At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

- In the natural, you don't put seed down today and expect a harvest tomorrow – the seed goes through a process.
- They were told that at the appointed time, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.
- There is a time and a season for everything under the earth. Many times, we miss out on the very blessings of God because we lack patience.
- It takes 9 months for a baby to be born – why are you asking God for your baby to be born at 3 months.
- In the fulness of time He makes all things possible.

3.4 Align your actions with the word of God

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

- What you do in the light of the received word will determine what the word can do for you.
- It is for God to speak but it is for you to act.
- Having receive a very direct and precise word, Abram and Sarah needed to play their part in order to bring about the promise.
- God was not going to make Sarah pregnant in a supernatural manner – it needed the full corporation of husband and wife.
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