

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

4/2/24

Many of us understand the concept of stepping out in faith, but many fear they will weaken, make mistakes or will be ignored by God. Abraham and Sarah are a good example for us to follow... they were guilty of all the above and more!

There are many similarities of our salvation and struggles contained in the overcoming of Sarah and Abraham.

Stepping out in the first place. **HEB 11:8** By **faith** Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham's first failing.

GEN 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and **from thy kindred, and from thy father's house**, unto a land that I will shew thee: **2** And I will make of thee a **great nation**, and I will bless thee, and **make thy name great**; and thou shalt be a blessing: **3** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. **4** So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and **Lot went with him**: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. *God told him to leave all his family behind... but he took Lot.*

HEB 11:9 By **faith** he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **10** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham's second failing.

GEN 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. **11** And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: **12** Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. **13** **Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister**: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. *He feared Pharaoh and twisted the truth... almost fatally.*

God confirms his promises.

GEN 17:3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, **4** As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of **many nations**. **5** Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be **Abraham** (*he was given a new name... this is our promise as well*); for a father of **many nations** have I made thee.

HEB 11:11 Through **faith** also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, **because she judged him faithful who had promised**. **12** Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. *She also had many failings before Isaac was born.*

Dealing with negatives and doubts.

Another mistake from doubt and frustration. **GEN 16:3** And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt **ten years** in the land of Canaan (*she was growing impatient waiting to bare a son*), and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. **4** And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. **5** And Sarai said unto Abram, **My wrong be upon thee**: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

Continuing The Journey.

Another mistake with more doubt. **GEN 18:9** And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. **10** And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, **Sarah thy wife shall have a son**. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. **11** Now Abraham and Sarah were **old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women**. **12** Therefore **Sarah laughed** within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? **13** And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? **14** **Is any thing too hard for the LORD?** At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. **15** Then Sarah denied, saying, **I laughed not**; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; **but thou didst laugh**. *Fear, frustration and doubt.*

Repeated the same mistake. **GEN 20:1** And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. **2** And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, **She is my sister**; and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. *This is the second time he feared and lied.*

Reaping the rewards.

God Confirms His Promise. **HEB 11:13** These all died in **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. *Despite all their failings, doubts and fears... God confirms them as faithful overcomers.*