

Keeping the Faith

Scripture

"Then they said to him, "Where [is] Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent." 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.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; [and] Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear [a child], since I am old?' "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." But Sarah denied [it], saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!" (Genesis 18:9-15 NKJV)

Commentary

Sometimes deciding what to share in this devotion is like wandering through a desert, and other times it is like browsing the shelves at the grocery store not being able to decide on a purchase. Both stem from a lack of conviction or personal involvement with a text. I think this happens when we are just going through the motions.

It's kind of like Sarah who knew the Lord was real and able to do all that He said He could do, but because of a lack of faith, at least a faith that has been exercised, she laughed at the thought of finally bearing Abraham a son.

I wonder if Sarah was not experiencing daily communion with God. Maybe because promises had not been fulfilled immediately, expectations had waned. This is seen in her question, "After I have grown old?" I may be reading more into the text than one should, but my guess is that had Sarah been continually walking a vibrant spiritual life, she would not have questioned the promise.

Another passage says, ". . . solid food belongs to those who are of full age, [that is], those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:14 NKJV) To walk as a Christian is to run a marathon. The end goal must always be kept in mind, and the fight must be kept all the way to the end. If ever along the way, one meditates on quitting a marathon, he surely will. The only security in those times is to stay focused, and not allow negative thoughts.

We do that primarily through prayer. We should internalize what we read to the point that prayer is natural. Simply reading a passage is not enough. We must meditate upon it and see as many applications that time allows. Should there not be enough time, then you have to do a better job of planning. Your spiritual walk is far too important to be pushed off.

Think about the promises God has made to you. Don't laugh them off like Sarah did, but believe.