

Taste and See the Lord is Good

Genesis 15 NIV

1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” **5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 16 NIV

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; **2** so she said to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.”

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. **3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. **4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

- The Story of Abraham with Ishmael and Isaac outlines the tension between the will/work of the flesh and the will/work of the Spirit.

- In Chapter 15 God makes a promise to Abram that he would be the father of many nations.
- By the time we get to Chapter 16, both Abram and Sarai tirelessly and impatiently reason to give Hagar to Abram, in an effort to help God out, because they still don't have a child.
- Impatience drove Sarai to say **Vs. 2** "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."
- How many times when things aren't moving fast enough are we tempted to take matters into our own hands rather than waiting patiently for the Lord.
- There is a big difference between a good idea and a God idea. What Sarai thought was a good idea will end up giving birth to great difficulty both for her and generations to come.
- The Angel of the Lord says this about Ismael:

Vs. 12 NIV

He will be a wild donkey of a man;
his hand will be against everyone
and everyone's hand against him,
and he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers."

- To this day the tensions that exist between Israel and Islam link all the way back to this decision that Abraham and Sarah made.
- In the Bible God reveals himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- But in Islam, their belief is in Abraham and Ismael. *"Ishmael is honored as a major prophet and is highly regarded as the ancestor of the Arab people and the forefather of Prophet Muhammad."* **Wiki**

Genesis 18 NIV

1 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

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9 “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

10 Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. **11** Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ **14** Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

- Too often when the Lord speaks a promise or a blessing over our lives it goes outside the scope of our expectation and understanding.
- It’s almost as if there is an believable expectation that we think God will do. Then when he speaks and it is outside of what we expect we might struggle with it at first.
- Because the word of the Lord to Abraham and Sarah was so certain the Bible says Sarai laughed to herself.

- This is how reading your Bible prepares your ears to recognize God's Voice. Too often people want to hear God's voice but they don't read their Bibles. I would say if you don't read your Bible you probably won't recognize God's voice when he speaks. Because God's voice sounds a lot like your Bible.

Genesis 21 NIV

1 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. **4** When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking...

- Just like with Abraham and Sarah there is the will of the Spirit and the will of the flesh.

Paul says regarding this:

Galatians 4 NIV

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. **23** His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

Notice something about each of these:

The Will of the Flesh:

1. Is inside your control
2. Makes sense in the natural
3. Doesn't cost as much
4. Doesn't take as long
5. Is more easily attainable

The Will of the Spirit:

1. Is outside of your control
2. Doesn't make sense in the natural
3. Will cost you patience and faithfulness to God
4. Will take as long as God see's fit
5. Is supernaturally attained

Illustration:

Cheap Pizza

- This represents the Will of the Flesh
- If you are hungry enough it might be ok. **Hebrews 11:25** says *sin is pleasurable for a season.*
- It won't cost you much.
- It won't require you to wait.
- This represents what I can manage on my own.

Expensive Pizza

- But there is another Pizza that represents the Will of the Spirit...
- The Will of the Spirit cost something, it's not cheap. It will require you to seek the Lord, listen for His voice, remain faithful to Him, and wait patiently for Him.

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

- It satisfies the deep longing of your soul. The will of God will satisfy you today and it will satisfy you years from now, even decades from now. You will look back when you are older and be amazed at God's wisdom and provision. You will say, Thank You Lord that you knew so much better than I did.

Psalm 34 NIV

1

I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.

2

I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

3

Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.

4

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

5

Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.

6

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.

7

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

8

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

9

Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

10

The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

This is why Paul says in:

Romans 8 NIV

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

God is Good

Mark 10 NIV

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

Matthew 7 NKJV

11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

James 1:17 NIV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.