

I. The Sovereignty and Authority of God

The sermon begins by focusing on the complete authority of God, building on the previous message about "the work of the potter":

- **God is Sovereign:** Sovereignty means "all power" and "all authority" [05:27]. God has total control over all things [06:55].
- **Total Dependence:** Everything God made is totally dependent upon Him, and failure occurs when creatures, like Adam and Eve, believe they no longer need to depend on Him [07:42].
- **The Potter's Choice:** God, the Potter, has the right of choice and selects His materials (people) not based on their own abilities, but based on His plan [09:23].

II. Abraham and Sarah's Process of "Making"

The message uses Abraham and Sarah to illustrate the *process* of being molded by God, even when it seems impossible:

- **Called Despite Incapability:** God chose Abraham and Sarah (the father and mother of the multitude) even though they physically lacked the capability to have a child [11:40].
- **Believing in Hope:** Reading from **Romans 4:18-21**, Abraham "against hope, believed in hope" and "considered not his own body now dead" or "the deadness of Sarah's womb" [13:31].
- **Fully Persuaded:** He reached the point of being "fully persuaded" that God was able to perform what He had promised [15:33]. The word "being" signifies that this was a **process** of transformation [15:41].
- **The Realm of the Unknown:** God did not tell Abraham or Sarah *how* He was going to bring the promise to pass, leaving them to trust Him in the "realm of the unknown" [01:01:30].

III. The Failures That Shaped Them

The Pastor dissects the specific failures and fears Abraham and Sarah exhibited as part of their making:

- **Failure 1: Fear and Deception in Egypt:** Their initial failure was a "deception born of fear" [20:17]. Abraham instructed Sarah to lie that she was his sister to Pharaoh to protect himself, which jeopardized the covenant lineage [22:35]. The lesson here is that even when people make mistakes, God's sovereignty allows Him to intervene and still accomplish His will [23:52].
- **Failure 2: Impatience and Trying to Help God:** They became impatient after waiting about 10 years, leading Sarah to suggest Hagar, thereby trying to "help God" bring the promise to pass [24:57]. The Pastor cautions against trying to impose human methods for God's divine will, which resulted in the atmosphere of strife [35:38].
- **Failure 3: Laughter and Doubt at the New Promise:** It took **25 years** at the "potter's table" for them to be fully molded [39:40]. When the promise was renewed, Abraham fell on his face and *laughed*, questioning how he (at 100) and Sarah (at 90) could have a son [40:12].

IV. Conclusion: Peace Through Tribulation

The sermon concludes with the power of faith and the benefit of enduring the molding process:

- **Peace with God:** By being "justified by faith," we "have peace with God" and "access by faith into His grace" [44:17].
- **Glory in Tribulation:** The Apostle Paul teaches that believers are to "glory in tribulation," knowing that tribulation "worketh patience" (steadfastness/approveness) and "experience hope" [50:38].
- **Submission to the Potter:** The ultimate takeaway is that the sooner we submit to God, the faster He can complete the molding process He called us for, because He knows what we are made of and what He needs us to be [00:01:00:48].

You can view the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExvVZhogdFI>