

God is Faithful Session 8 – Failure to Believe

Hebrews 11:11 (KJV) – *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.*

I. Review/Intro

- A. Sarah's summary – She judged God and His promise faithful and true
- B. It is the Word/Promise that you judge faithful that works for you
 - a. *Who has believed our report – To whom it the arm of the Lord revealed?*
- C. Resting in the Promises of God – There is an unusual rest that comes from judging the promises of God faithful and true
- D. The power of Covenant Promises – Covenant Faithfulness
- E. The Faithfulness of Jesus – I receive because He is faithful

II. Failure to Believe

- A. **Hebrews 4:1-2 (NKJV)** – *¹Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, ^[a]not being mixed with faith in those who heard it*

Hebrews 4:1-2 (ERV) – *¹And we still have the promise that God gave those people. That promise is that we can enter his place of rest. So we should be very careful that none of you fails to get that promise.*

²Yes, the good news about it was told to us just as it was to them. But the message they heard did not help them. They heard it but did not accept it with faith, (Failure to Judge God/His Word True and Faithful)

1. Everything God does, He does through the promises of His Word

Every miracle/ healing/ breakthrough begins with a promise

2. To receive those things God has promises our cooperation of FAITH is required

- a. The promises alone, although filled with the power to bring it to pass, is not enough.
- b. Someone must believe the promises given
- c. It is the promises that we believe/judge faithful and true that works for you
- d. The sad reality of this passage is that while many may receive a promise, many will not receive because of failure to believe
Failure to believe is failure to receive

B. Abraham's Example

Although he had the promise, he had to have faith for the promise to become a reality

Romans 4:17-21 (NKJV) – ¹⁷ (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed— God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

C. Examples of Those Who Failed to Judge God/His Word Faithful

1. **2 Kings 7:1-2 (ERV)** – Elisha said, “Listen to the message from the LORD! The LORD says, ‘About this time tomorrow, there will be plenty of food, and it will be cheap again. A person will be able to buy a basket^[a] of fine flour or two baskets of barley for only one shekel^[b] in the marketplace by the city gates of Samaria.’” ² Then the officer who was close to the king^[c] answered the man of God. The officer said, “Even if the LORD made windows in heaven, this could not happen.”

Elisha said, “You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of that food.”

1. God is getting ready to bring an end to a great famine

- a. Famine so severe, they were eating their children
- b. A donkey’s head cost eighty pieces of silver
- c. A cup of dung’s dove cost five pieces of silver

2. How does God work? By sending His Word

- a. God spoke the Word through Elisha the prophet
- b. Tomorrow at this time there will be plenty of food.

3. The man who would not believe – A refusal to judge God Faithful

- a. Response – If the Lord would make windows in heaven, this might happen.
- b. This cannot happen
- c. I just don’t believe this
- d. Let’s get real, do you really believe that’s going to happen
- e. RESPONSE – You will see it, but you will not receive it.

When you refuse to believe, you will watch others receive

- f. **Kings 7:16:20 (ERV)** – ¹⁶ Then the people ran out to the Aramean camp and took valuable things from there. So it happened just as the LORD had said. A person could buy a basket of fine flour or two baskets of barley for only one shekel. ¹⁷ There was one officer who always stayed close by the king to help him. The king sent this officer to guard the gate, but the people knocked him down and trampled him, and he died. So everything happened just as the man of God had said when the king came to Elisha’s house. ¹⁸ Elisha had said, “A person will be able to buy a basket of fine flour or two baskets of barley for only one shekel in the marketplace by the city gates of Samaria.” ¹⁹ But that officer had answered the man of God, “Even if the LORD made windows in heaven, this could not happen!” And Elisha had told the officer, “You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of that food.” ²⁰ It happened to the officer just that way. The people knocked him down at the gate and trampled him, and he died.

Notes:

He heard the promise

He refused to judge the promise true

He missed the promised blessing/ Limited God/ Lost his life

2. **Malachi 3:13-15 (NKJV)** – ¹“Your words have been ^[a]harsh against Me,” Says the LORD, “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵ So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are ^[b]raised up; They even tempt God and go free.’

a. God had just finished telling them about the blessing of the Tithe.

b. They were not tithing/ Robbing God

c. This passage reveals the root of why they were not tithing

Their mouth revealed the issue

They didn't judge God Faithful to bless them

They SAID – it is worthless/ useless to serve God

This doesn't Work

This isn't working

Others are blessed more than God's people

III. Closing Thoughts

A. Ephesians 1:19 (NKJV) – *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

1. His power moves toward those who believe

The power moves toward those who believe

2. You Must Believe!

3. No believing/ Faith – No Power

B. Mary

Luke 1:38 (KJV) – *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the LORD; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

1. Mary had every reason to doubt
2. Mary required a bigger miracle than Sarah
3. Mary was quick to judge God and his promise faithful
4. Mary received her miracle quickly
5. Sarah took 25 years – Mary took 9 months
6. The quicker you believe – the faster the results –
7. Be quick to believe!

C. Who will you identify with?

1. Daniel – Judged God faithful/slept with the lions
2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego/Through the fire
3. David, overcame lions, bears and giants
4. Paul, survived a sinking ship