

Marriage Series 2009, (#4)
DISENCHANTMENT (Cont.)

Last week we introduced you to a spiritual mature married couple actively engaged in the plan of God on the mission field.

While on the mission field they became DISENCHANTED with God regarding the fulfillment of a specific promise of God of a child.

They didn't become disenchanted with "can God do it?" but with "why isn't God doing it?" This Disenchantment with God will spread into other areas of their lives such as marriage and employment and ministry.

You will recall from last week's lesson that they accepted that Sarah was barren and that God opens and closes the womb (Gen.20:18; 1 Sam.1:5-6, 20; Isa.66:9).

But their focus changed when they were given the promise of a male messianic seed of Gen.3:15 (Gen.12:1-3; Gal.3:16).

Did they understand that the promise was God's to them? Did they understand that the performance of the promise was God's? Did they understand that the believing and the waiting were their responsibilities? **The answer to all of these questions is YES!**

Within the first 10 years of waiting (Gen.12:4; 16:15), they became DISENCHANTED with God.

- Abram "Since **Thou** has given no offspring to me." (Gen.15:3a)
- Sarai "Now behold, **the Lord** has prevented me from bearing children." (Gen.16:2a)

Today's lesson will study three aspects of Abraham and Sarah's DISENCHANTMENT with God.

1. The spiritual issue for these two spiritual mature believers was not waiting but HOW to wait for God to fulfill His promise.

"Yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able to also to perform." (Rom.4:20-21)

Notice three homiletical points regarding the waiting period.

- Promise Word of God
- Problem Waiting
- Performance Womb

Notice that they turned a spiritual promise into a fleshly problem (OMCD) during the waiting period. Paul showed what they should have done while waiting - "My soul waits in silence (damam) [resigned or fully assured] for God only, for my hope is from Him." (Ps.62:5; 37:7)

- Do not waver in unbelief
- Grow strong in faith
- Give glory to God
- Remain fully assured

2. **After the first 25 years of waiting and weighed down by the promise and bad decisions, they finally chose to work the faith cycle to completion.**

We cannot fulfill the promises of God by the energy of the flesh [OSN] (Gal.5:16-17) or by sight [OMCD] (2 Cor.5:7).

- “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so** walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, **just as** you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”(Col.2:6-7)

First, Abraham tried to substitute Lot (Gen.12:1) but God said NO! At that time, God gave him a great sign of the promise (1 Cor.1:22)

- “And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him. I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.” (Gen.13:14-16)

Second, Abraham tried to substitute Eliezer (Gen.15:2-4) but God said NO! Then God gave Abraham a second great sign of the promise.

- “Now look towards the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, so shall your descendants be.” (Gen.15:5)

Third, at the age of 85, Abraham and Sarah try to substitute Hagar and Ishmael (Gen.16) but God said NO! Fourteen years later God gave Abraham a third sign of the promise.

- “Now Abraham was **99 years** old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.” (Gen.17:24)

Hearing

(Rom.10:17)

[Promise, truth, faith - what I believe]

Completing

(James 2:22)

Believing

(Heb.4:2)

[Performance, trust, faith rest – how I believe]

Applying

(2 Cor.5:7)

3. **The believing husband is the spiritual leader of the marriage and family (1 Cor.11:3; Eph.5-6; Col.3).**

The believing husband is the one who sees that prayer; family devotions, and attending church get done. Did Abraham know about Adam and Eve and the results of his failure to defend his wife and the truth of God’s word?

Why didn’t Sarah offer him spiritual truth when he recommended Lot and Eliezer?

Why didn’t Abraham offer his wife spiritual counsel and truth when she recommended Hagar?

- How does your barrenness affect the promise of God?
- How does your age affect the power of God?
- Did God know we were barren when He gave us the promise?

Why didn’t he draw the spiritual sword and defend his wife and the truth of the word of God?

(Matt.4; Eph.6:17) **Maybe we have the answers when we ask ourselves, “why don’ we do it?”**

Why didn’t he take her outside to hold a hand of dirt or to look to the stars and remind her that God is a faithful Creator? “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars of for ever and ever.” (Dan.12:3; Phil.2:14-15)

This spiritually mature married couple lived 25 years of self-induced misery on the mission field regarding a specific promise of God’s word **because they failed** the faith-rest test of the faith cycle.

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