

The Great Faith of Sarah By Trey Sullins

The great hall of faith in the book of Hebrews is a very encouraging portion. In Hebrews 12 we find that all of these great people of faith are witnesses to the walk of faith that we are going through now. This poses a great but also encouraging challenge to us as we have so many great examples of faith to look up too! In this section there is one woman mentioned who stands out in the Bible for her great faith. Hebrews 11:11 begins to talk about Sarah. Sarah's faith was so great that it was through her that the promise of God to Abraham was fulfilled! As Christians we should study her example to be able to imitate that same attitude which she had.

The first thing we notice about Sarah is that she heard the promise that she would have a son. The Bible reveals this event happening to us in Genesis 18. In the beginning of the chapter the Lord appeared to Abraham under a tree. Abraham invited Him to rest and asked Him if he could provide food and water. The Lord then tells them that they would be visited again and that they would have another son from their own bodies. This was particularly unusual for them to hear because they were both very old. Genesis 17:17 tells us that Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old. Certainly, Sarah was well past the natural age of her body being capable of producing a child. In fact, she clearly realized this fact because when she heard this prophecy, she laughed within herself (Genesis 18:13). This laughter is even questioned by God in Genesis 18:13-14. The Lord asks, "Is anything too hard for the Lord." If God tells someone that they are going to have a son, then they are going to have a son and the circumstances are irrelevant in the fulfillment of that!

Sarah's faith is very important to understand because you can see a definite growth in her. She starts out with laughter and was questioning how this could be done, but she ends up being one recorded in Hebrews 11 as an example of great faith. How does this happen? She knows that she is too old to be capable of being pregnant and yet here she was being told that she was going to be pregnant. Next, look over at Hebrews 11:11. Notice how the text words her account, "By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." The Bible says that "she judged Him faithful who had promised." The meaning of the text here is that she understood and knew that when God made this promise then it was definitely going to happen. In other words, she thought that God was so reliable and true to His word that even this thing would be completed. The Bible does not specifically record her transition from laughter to full trust in God, but we know without a doubt that this growth happened.

Sarah's great faith produced great results. The Bible says, "Therefore from one man who was good as dead many were born" (Hebrews 11:12). The meaning here is that Abraham and Sarah were too old and not capable of producing a child, but because of the belief, obedience, and faith, which Sarah showed she was able to produce the promised child and continue the plan of God. Remember also that this child was not only the fulfillment of a son for Abraham and Sarah, but a continuation of the ultimate plan of God that eventually leads to Jesus Christ. Therefore, it continues the promise which God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Do you notice just how powerful faith in God can be? This account also shows the importance of a growing faith. This is really the story of all the "cloud of witnesses". They start off with lesser

faith and then grow and grow in their faith for God. Sarah proved her faith to God and shows us what we should be as God's people. The question is, does our faith look like Sarah's?