

*Live, Laugh, Love*

## **Genesis 17:15-27**

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**Main Idea: The Lord who promises redemption in Christ, produces in those whom He redeems: living faith in Jesus Christ, laughing joy over His redemption, and loving desire that others would also be redeemed.**

**Introduction:** the glory of being wife and mother (cf. Gen 2:18-25), Mal 2:15, 1Tim 2:11-15)! The name change and repetition of vv5-6 are reminding/announcing that Sarah is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh—Christ’s ancestry is not just Abraham’s glory but also Sarah’s. The Lord brings Sarai-now-Sarah explicitly into His promise about Jesus (not just Isaac!). **Application:** do you value wifehood and motherhood like this? Do you value participation in the covenant of grace even more?

1. **LIVE.** The Lord produces in those whom He redeems a living faith in Jesus Christ. A living faith is one in which we employ the means God has given by which He brings about His promises. **Application:** are you using the means? Word, sacrament, prayer, elders, fellowship, marriage, instruction, discipline.
2. **LAUGH.** The Lord produces in those whom He redeems a laughing joy over His redemption. Romans 4:9-22 makes it clear that Abraham’s laughter is not the laughter of unbelief, but the laughter of astonished praise.
3. **LOVE.** The Lord produces in those whom He redeems a loving desire that others would also be redeemed. “Indeed/verily, but...” in v19. The language of v18 takes us back to v1, with “live” here (as opposed to “die”) being even stronger than “walk.” God makes promises about salvation in Christ. Abraham’s response as a father is to...
  - a. Hope in that promise
  - b. Pray for his son’s participation in the promise (a prayer to which God responds not with a bare redemption, but every good thing!)
  - c. Put upon his son the commanded sign of that promise.

**Application:** fathers and mothers to do the same with all their children, and also to love and pray for many who yet need redemption through faith in Christ

**Conclusion:** How are you responding to God’s sign upon you? How are you responding to God’s sign upon your children?