

God's Strength in Sarah's Weakness

Genesis 18:1-15

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Main Idea: God makes us know our weakness to turn our hearts to His strength.

Introduction: white dust on black BDUs.

1. **Abraham's Faith.** After thirteen years between the previous two recorded appearances to Abraham, Yahweh appears to him again after just three months. Interestingly—at least until the issue of Sodom's destruction arises—Sarah seems to be the focus of this visit. Half of our text is spent on Abraham's earnestness to receive and serve the Lord. What does faith do? It worships. It serves. It runs.
2. **Yahweh's Focus.** The curiosity of the Lord's focus upon Sarah in this visit. When the Lord Himself finally brings up His own subject of conversation, it is all about "Sarah your wife" (v9, v10). And the comments in the narrative are primarily about Sarah—her activity (listening), her location (tent door), her medical status (passed the age of childbearing), and even her inner attitude (laughed within herself) and thoughts (after I have grown old, etc.)
3. **Sarah's Folly.** She's not just weak in body. She's weak in soul. Sarah doesn't do very well for herself. Her laughter does not occur on her face before the Lord, worshiping in the Romans-4-affirmed, non-wavering faith of her husband. It is a laughter to be ashamed of (for she was afraid), and comes from the same dysfunctional heart that proceeds to start an argument with Yahweh (I did not laugh). Not only does she laugh... she even argues with the Lord Himself! And yet, Hebrews 11:11 tells us that the Lord brought her to a place where she judged Him faithful.
4. **Yahweh's Faithfulness.**
 - a. **Because He is merciful.** He is willing to stoop down to associate with us.
 - b. **Because of His fellowship.** He has chosen to know us and belong to us and us to Him.
 - c. **Because of His strength.** He is able to accomplish what His love desires.
 - d. **Because of His forgiveness.** He can overlook our folly because of the sacrifice of Christ, and deal with us according to the perfect righteousness of Christ.
 - e. **Because of His patience.** He bears with us and works in us as He brings about what He has planned for us.

Conclusion: Is anything too hard for Yahweh? The text answers with a resounding, "No!" Not only is He strong enough to give Sarah's dead body the ability to bear a child, but He is strong enough to give sinners' dead hearts the ability to believe in THE child who would eventually come from her, Jesus Christ! Sometimes the Lord permits us to encounter our spiritual weakness with great clarity. But, if we are in Christ, it is not to discourage us, but to redirect us to His strength!