

Sovereign Grace Church

“Sarah” outline

May 21, 2017

Hebrews 11: 11-12

At this point in Hebrews' discussion of Abraham's faith, the focus shifts to his wife, Sarah. Sarah's name means “Princess” and she was a very remarkable and beautiful woman. But her physical beauty was greatly overshadowed by a beauty that radiated from her heart. In I Peter Sarah's real beauty is held forth as a “gentle and quiet spirit” that stemmed from the hidden dimension of a heart & will being made whole by God.

Sarah's growth in faith is evident throughout the story of Abraham, along with that perennial struggle of the flesh which necessarily accompanies it. How many Christian women today would have responded with equal gentleness if their husbands were to rush into the house with an unequivocal announcement to “Pack the bags, honey....we're moving!” “Where to?” she asks. “I have no idea,” he responds, “it's just a long, long way from here!” I'm sure she asked for some explanation and I'm equally sure that Abraham gave it. But still, it would have taken real faith to leave everything that had given meaning to her life for the sake of a message from God that only her husband had received.

Whereas Abraham's faith was expressed in obeying God, Sarah's faith was expressed, at least in part, in obeying God my means of obeying Abraham. It would seem that Sarah, and wives in general, have the harder task....thus it would not be surprising that they arrive at spiritual maturity more quickly. Could it be that, though women are the weaker vessels physically, they may also be the stronger vessels spiritually? Could this be in part because they ARE the weaker vessels physically?!

1. Sarah's Life Gen. 20: 13

2. Sarah's Faith v. 11

- Sarah submitted to her husband
Eph. 5:22; I Pet 3: 6; Gen. 20: 13

- Sarah waited upon the Lord
Gen. 15: 5-6; 18: 10-13; 21: 6-7; Gal. 2:20; I Cor. 15: 10

3. Sarah's Child of Promise v. 12
Gen. 15: 5-6; II Cor. 12: 10

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What are different ways that you wives show submission to your husbands? Do people in your life tend to regard you as being obedient to your husband, or dominant over him? What is the difference between biblical submission and unbiblical compliance? In order for a wife to properly submit to her husband, to whom must she submit first? Must a husband be in submission in order to properly lead his wife? To whom or to what? Is it possible that for many husbands, leading their wives demands submission? How might this be the case?**
- 2. What are the struggles that currently afflict your life? Do you think you would become more spiritually mature without them? Was this the case with Paul? What does Paul mean when he says, "*when I am weak, then I am strong.*" How does this apply to your life? What weaknesses do you have through which God manifests His strength? Why does weakness alone not indicate spiritual maturity?**
- 3. Does our church adequately provide an environment for growth in Christ? What are challenges we face in this task? How can they be overcome? What would a church look like that held the spiritual transformation of her members as a fundamental priority? How could many people be drawn to such a church while others might be provoked? What is the difference between such people?**