

I KNOW WHY SARAH LAUGHED

So she laughed silently to herself - Genesis 18:12 | DEVOTIONAL 5

God cannot lie! How many times have you heard that scripture? **Numbers 23:19 - God is not man that He should lie or the Son of man that He should repent.** Does he speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? **2 Corinthians 1:20 - His promises are yes and amen. Jeremiah 29:11 - He knows the plans He has for you, to prosper and not harm.** Yet some days we wish God could give us a clue about these plans.

Sarah was an exceptionally beautiful woman that got married to a wealthy man. She thought that life would go as they expected but as the years went by, her husband changed religion and decided to follow a God who spoke to him instead of worshipping the moon and the stars. Sarah, whose beauty did not fade with age went along as an obedient wife with her husband's family. This is because her father-in-law carried off his family to another land away from her birthplace intending to go where her husband's God had called them. Here, the husband settled in a much nearer land and built another homestead. When her father-in-law died, her husband told her that God had called him to this foreign land again. He did not know which land, but he had to obey the voice of God.

Amidst all this, Sarah had been grappling with questions of infertility as she grew past the childbearing age because with every land that they stepped into, she was reminded of her own bareness. Her husband tried to comfort her saying that his God had promised he would have descendants as many as the sand on the seashore. Yet every year after that, she did not conceive even as her body continued to grow weaker. Even to her old age, she remained strikingly beautiful that every man wanted to have her as his wife. Her husband got afraid once and asked her not to reveal their relationship, that one king took her in for the night after which the Lord struck him with plagues. As a result, Abraham her husband who had received property from the king was chased away from this land with his wife.

Another king took a liking to her, and God warned him through a dream not to touch the prophet's wife. Abraham would then pray for his household to release all the women who had been struck with infertility and they were able to give birth after that. What irony? Abraham could release a full king's household to give birth, but his wife still could not have a child!

As the years went by, both Abraham and Sarah gave up on the promise of God. Sarah proceeded to give her bond servant to Abraham to have a child on her behalf and she gave birth of Ishmael. Ishmael was not the son of promise and brought great trouble upon this household. At the age of 89, Sarah who was passed the childbearing age listened to a conversation between her husband and his guests. She had prepared them a delicious meal and went ahead to sit inside the tent but within earshot of the delegation. As they talked, they mentioned to Abraham that, "by this time next year, Sarah would have a baby of her own."

Sarah laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?" Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' God's promise was ridiculous for a woman and a man passed childbearing age. Yet against all hope Abraham believed even though his body was as good as dead. When the angel of the Lord told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a baby at 90, I know why Sarah laughed. And then she had the baby! Isaac, meaning one who laughs. What "baby" are you believing for that is past its due date? This is an invitation to believe against all hope like Abraham and Sarah did. May this be your reminder to enter your season of laughing.

Prayer: Dear Lord, will you give me the grace to hold onto the promises you have revealed to me through your word. May I abide in you as you abide in me even as I wait patiently for what you have spoken over my life. Amen.