### **▼Love Notes: The Genesis of Faith Series Chapters 16-18**

As promised, I have compiled the discussion notes from our Soulful Saturday meeting on 11/22/2025. On this day we continued with the Genesis of Faith Series. We read from Genesis Chapters 16-18 and to capture the significance of the our weekly discussion of the Word, we referenced: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 ERV

[2] We always remember you when we pray, and we thank God for all of you. [3] Every time we pray to God our Father, we thank him for all that you have done because of your faith. And we thank him for the work you have done because of your love. And we thank him that you continue to be strong because of your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] Brothers and sisters, God loves you. And we know that he has chosen you to be his people. [5] When we brought the Good News to you, we came with more than words. We brought that Good News with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with the sure knowledge that it was true. Also you know how we lived when we were with you. We lived that way to help you.

**Speaker Notes:** Thank you for joining us on the last Saturday before Thanksgiving. I am honored and so grateful that you chose to be here sharing the Word with us. I want you to know that I love you so much and I'm so sincere about you. You keep me going, you constantly affirm my purpose and you make this walk down the narrow path feel much wider by your presence. You show up every week no matter what obstacles are thrown your way, and you never look or sound like any of the things that you go through. I am so proud of you! I am in awe of you! Your beauty, your power, your majesty, your consistency, and your growth, I thank God for you, for your fellowship, and for your faithfulness, I cherish you!

God is so good, that He blessed me beyond measure but you, you, I am most thankful for. I've been on this faith walk trying my best to be obedient and some days I thrive and other days I strive. But everyday you inspire me to keep going. You show me that I am on the right track, and you encourage me with your truth and vulnerability. You are my treasure that I store in heaven, and my dream realized. I am strengthened by you and your support of my dreams. I want to support you in yours and my greatest desire is for us to support each other in all of our endeavors. We are a royal priesthood, a sisterhood! I didn't know what I would become when I grew up, but with you I'm not afraid to keep growing. Living for God is learning that we never stop growing up if we're lucky.

We never stop getting better, more pronounced, more intentional, more proficient and more like Jesus. We never stop learning, our love is never finished, and our joy is never-ending. The only temporary things in this life are pain and heartache, but once we set our life in God's hands, our latter days begin. And God has promised that our latter days will be better than our former. We are living in the promises of our Father. We have finally arrived at the best part, the promised land, and I'm so happy we're here together at a time like this. There is nowhere else I'd rather be than here with you in the presence of our God.

So as you go off, into your week and you face whatever challenges or opportunities ahead, I want you to be encouraged, emboldened, and equipped to handle it all with grace, for you are a regal beauty, a SuperWoman, a child of Elohim, and you are fiercely loved. I pray that you come

into the awareness of our identity in Christ until the fullness of that knowledge leads you into divine purpose and divine faith. You are the sheep to my shepherd and the companion to my destiny. Thank you! Thank You! And Let's all Thank God!

**Recap:** Previously we discussed the beginning of Creation, Genesis, Chapters 1-3. We discussed the Light from the first day being Jesus and how He was there before the creation of everything. We discussed the spiritual and physical realities that are congruent and how everything that happens on earth, occurs in the spiritual realm first. We learned that deception begins with us believing there is an alternate or better way apart from what God says, and deception ends with us discovering there is no other way. When we discussed Genesis, Chapters 4-5, we analyzed why Cain killed Abel and studied how murder wasn't committed because of jealousy or anger, it occurred because of Cain's heart posture.

Then, when discussing Genesis, Chapters 6-8, we looked at why the fallen angels took women for wives and we delved into the power of women, and our unique ability to steer the fate of mankind. We witnessed God's decision to cleanse the Earth of all mankind "But Noah found favor". Then, when studying Genesis Chapters, 9-10, we acknowledged that Noah's obedience was pure and righteous in God's eyes, because Noah's obedience didn't require proof or a witness. By Genesis chapter 11, God scattered mankind all over the earth to prevent them from working together to multiply evil and Noah's 3 sons become the fathers of all nations. However, it is through the lineage of Shem and His descendant, Abram, that God makes His covenant.

In Chapter 12 Abram is called by God to leave his relatives and his father's home for a place that God hasn't yet revealed. Abram does leave but takes his nephew Lot with him. In Chapter 13, he and Lot separate, Lot chooses an advantage over Abram, but Abram chooses the presence of God and gains the advantage. Then when studying Chapters 14-15 Lot is captured, and Abram takes his household of servants and workers to save him. Finally, and only after Abram completely separates from Lot, God makes His covenant with Abram.

## **Genesis: Chapter 16 (War of Wives)**

Sarai gives Hagar to Abram in marriage. Genesis 16:1-3 CSB

[1] Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar. [2] Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said. [3] So Abram's wife, Sarai, took Hagar, her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband, Abram, as a wife for him. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan ten years.

Speaker Notes: So here we are, Abram just entered a covenant with God, and God assured him that he would be a father of nations. Time and time again God reaffirms His promise to Abram that the land of Canaan is his, and he will have a son produced by his own seed. The previous chapter reads "And Abram believed God." Fast forward 10 years later, Abram and his wife Sarai are living in the promise, in the land of Canaan. They have an abundance of food, servants, help, there aren't wars, family fights, drama, or natural disasters, they are living safely in the presence of the Lord. So how does it happen? How do we go from total peace and joy, to inviting someone else into our marriage?

Many of us like to say, "I would never!" Or "it couldn't be me." But the truth is, most of us crawl in our marriage bed with a Hagar every night. There is a habit, a person, a thing, or a place that we run to, outside of our marriage, that we think is the cure for what's missing. It can be used for for our stress, or for our frustration, or our loneliness, or our comfort, or our rest, or our grief, our sadness, our disappointments, or our boredom, or confusion, or questions, or curiosity, or for our unbelief, or whatever little dust mite sits in the corner of our pristine house, we decide to invite something into our marriage with God.

How many know the voice of the enemy sounds like your own?

It loves to question what God said. The enemy loves to question what God has already revealed to you because if you begin to question, you start to change your answers to meet the question. Just like Eve when the enemy questioned her "Did God really say you can't eat of any tree in the garden?" The enemy is now working on Sarai. She starts her conversation and thinking with a lie. "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children". God didn't say that. He never said that. Abram never said that, he just believed if God said he would have a son, then he would. Just like Adam was content to eat from every tree except the forbidden one.

So why does the enemy keep choosing women and why is he so successful at getting us to pervert God's will? It's because we're emotional. We feel things on a magnitude that a man simply can't. We feel the hurt of our husbands and their yearning for something that we can't provide. It breaks our heart when we can't be what is needed for the ones that we love. We were built and designed this way, but like with most gifts, there is also a vulnerability. There is a sensitivity that can be exploited or manipulated for evil and it is only protected by unwavering faith and absolute obedience to the entire Word of God. How many know sometimes we feel differently than what God says or reveals?

God can say leave your boyfriend right now, and if you love that man, forget about it. You'll go see a pastor to pray over your demonic thoughts before you accept the truth of God. That's because of the intensity in which you feel love. If God tells you to deny your children their desires when it's in your power to provide, you'll question if you even heard Him. Our gift to emote, feel, and empathize, at a level that no man will ever know, is also a vulnerability and it must be treated as such. So we have to be obedient to whatever God says, our emotions and feelings alone cannot be trusted to base life-long or life-altering decisions upon. It's too easily manipulated to be the total source of our wisdom or understanding.

Our emotions need some proof before they can be accepted as evidence. They need some prayer, some studying of the word, some greater consideration, and our emotions need God to be their ruler. We aren't equipped for the job, because it was never our job. It's our Father, God who reveals all things, so it's always best to wait on him to reveal it.

Don't get me wrong, our intuition is not to be confused with the Holy Spirit. The difference is one is never wrong. We have a gift that allows us to discern and prophesy, and we can definitely rely on it, but if it contradicts, or minimizes, or adds to the Word of God, that is not the Holy Spirit,

that is the enemy. The enemy only comes but for 3 reasons, to kill, steal and destroy! So before you allow your emotions to rule you, steal from you, destroy you, and kill your peace, take your feelings to God, seek His guidance and measure everything against the unchanging Word of God. It will save you from the plans of the enemy and prevent you from creating your own plans without God. How many know the enemy's plan and plans without God are one and the same?

So Sarai's plan is implemented and she gives a foreign woman to her husband to marry. 🥴



Hagar is now pregnant while Sarai cries to Abram, blaming him. Genesis 16:4-5 CSB [4] He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she saw that she was pregnant, her mistress became contemptible to her. [5] Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for my suffering! I put my slave in your arms, and when she saw that she was pregnant, I became contemptible to her. May the Lord judge between me and you."

Speaker Notes: So now Sarai is living with the plans she made outside of God. How many know you can't help God, you can only get in His way? Sarai thought that she would be the savior, the one to make sure God's promise was fulfilled. Instead she gave her servant to her husband, her husband accepted, and now she is grieving the success of her plans. How many know when we create plans without God, success is our failure? Getting what we want will result in a pain we were never meant to experience because God doesn't withhold good things from His children. So if Father said no, or not yet, I promise you, you don't want it. I promise you finding out why God said no is better left unknown.

Sarai first blames God for preventing her from having children, then she blames Abram for her suffering as she watches her servant's belly grow from her husband's seed, and the other woman is now looking down upon her, diminishing her role as his wife and her master. So let us give our suffering to God, it is no good in the hands of man. There is nothing any of us can do, it is God that saves, restores, redeems, heals, recovers, and fulfills His promises. He never needed our help, just our total and absolute obedience. That is literally ALL!

Sarai mistreats Hagar so she runs away to the wilderness Genesis 16:6-8 CSB [6] Abram replied to Sarai, "Here, your slave is in your power; do whatever you want with her." Then Sarai mistreated her so much that she ran away from her. [7] The angel of the Lord found her by a spring in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. [8] He said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai."

**Speaker Notes:** So Abram realizes that giving in to his wife's ideas has some consequences. He, too, needed to go to the Father and vet her plans. If he would've done that first, there would be no Hagar or baby poppa drama. There would be a season in the promised land with his wife and with God, all in preparation for the son God promised to give him. He only gave into Sarai because he wanted a son, he didn't ask God because he didn't want to. He leaned on his logic. How many know men are the logical ones? God said he would have a son, but God didn't say explicitly that Sarai would be his son's mother. He knew better than to go against the Word of

God and go outside his marriage but if Sarai is asking for this and it aligns with my desires and some of what God promised, then why not?

Women we cannot depend on our emotions anymore than a man can depend on logic, we must be completely dependent on God. If God said He will do it, He will do it, and He doesn't want or need your help. He requires your faith and obedience. Anything more is a trick of the enemy and fools will eat the fruit. So now Sarai is being mid-evil to Hagar out of anger and frustration for the mess she initiated in her peaceful life and marriage. Hagar runs away; notice Abram nor Sarai ran out to get her. Abram knew better and Sarai got what she wanted, the baby momma is gone. Now God must get involved. He has to clean up the mess we made, he could've stayed out of it, and said I planned something better but since this is what you created, live with it. Instead, our unchanging and merciful God gets in the mess with us. He doesn't wait for clear skies and sunny days, he jumps in our mess and works it all for our good. Praise God!

# An angel of God tells Hagar to go back Genesis 16:9-12 CSB

[9] The angel of the Lord said to her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her authority." [10] The angel of the Lord said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be too many to count." [11] The angel of the Lord said to her, "You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your cry of affliction. [12] This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives."

### Hagar gives birth to Ishmael when Abram is 86 Genesis 16:13-16 CEV

[13] Hagar thought, "Have I really seen God and lived to tell about it?" So from then on she called him, "The God Who Sees Me." [14] That's why people call the well between Kadesh and Bered, "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me." [15-16] Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to their son, and he named him Ishmael.

Speaker Notes: Hagar was an Egyptian slave. She came from a completely different religious background and was even a little nasty with Sarai when she found out she was pregnant. But God sent His angel to rescue her and protect her at her lowest point. God didn't rescue Hagar for Abram, or to punish Sarai, He didn't even do it because she was a part of His plan, she wasn't. He rescued Hagar because He heard her cry, He heard her pain, and He was her God too! And like all of His children, in order to fully receive the goodness of God, we must be obedient! God doesn't say to her, stay here and I'll protect you. He says go back to the place and person that hurts your feelings, and abuses your emotions and be submissive. How many know we're all God's children and God still means what He says to His children?

Ishmael will grow to become the father of Islam. And God's message is still true, Go back to the place and people that hurt you and submit! We cannot trust our feelings more than we trust God, and we cannot confuse our feelings with God's perfect will. I know it feels like the truth, I know it feels like the right thing to do, I know it's how you were raised, but no reason will change the fact that only God is righteous, only God is good, and only God is true! Let's Trust God!

Genesis: Chapter 17 (God promises Abraham)
God changes Abram's name to Abraham Genesis 17:1-5 AMP

[1] When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; Walk [habitually] before Me [with integrity, knowing that you are always in My presence], and be blameless and complete [in obedience to Me]. [2] "I will establish My covenant (everlasting promise) between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly [through your descendants]." [3] Then Abram fell on his face [in worship], and God spoke with him, saying, [4] "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And [as a result] you shall be the father of many nations. [5] "No longer shall your name be Abram (exalted father), But your name shall be Abraham (father of a multitude); For I will make you the father of many nations.

Speaker Notes: When God is ready to deliver His purpose, He will change your name. Some of you may be thinking I've been Victoria (Victory) all my life. So I'm supposed to become Queen Mother (Candice) one day? Nope it means like Abram (exalted father) you were always going to be a father, but the kind of father you become progresses as you become ready for your purpose Abraham (father of a multitude). Victoria, like her name suggests, always seemed to win in life. She avoids many of the pitfalls that I often stumbled over, and if we're being honest, I often fell and even sat for a while. But as she gets closer in alignment with God's purpose for her life, her victories will be made for God's Kingdom. They will call her Victoria but may never know just how victorious she is or will become. They will call me Candice without knowing my name means Queen Mother and my children are growing up, but they weren't of my womb. Our names have power but not as much as our actions. So it is best to let God name you!

Let God decide what you are and will become and walk in alignment with His perfect Will. The world can call you whatever they want but when God calls, that is the only call you must answer. Many are called, but few are chosen. How many know the chosen don't have a choice and the called are qualified by their choice?

### God promises to give Abraham the land of Canaan Genesis 17:6-8 CEV

[6] I will give you a lot of descendants, and they will become great nations. Some of them will even be kings. [7] I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your descendants, because I am your God and their God. [8] I will give you and them the land in which you are now a foreigner. I will give the whole land of Canaan to your family forever, and I will be their God.

Speaker Notes: God promises to give Him what was once foreign. I love this. God's promises are foreign before they are ours. What God has for us is not found in the places we once were or the past that we left behind. Our promises are foreign, unknown. We don't know God's plans until He reveals them to us. He will tell us like he told Abram, He told him in his dreams, in visions, in victories, in losses, through family, through allies, through priests, angels, and always with His Word. But before He reveals His promise and His purpose for your life, it will first be foreign to you! It will also be yours forever. And you will know because He will be your God. The Ruler and Master of your life that you will gladly relinquish control to. It will no longer be a struggle or battle, you will instinctively and lovingly obey your Father, God.

God requests circumcision in exchange for His promise. Genesis 17:9-14 CEV

[9] Abraham, you and all future members of your family must promise to obey me. [10-11] As the sign that you are keeping this promise, you must circumcise every man and boy in your family. [12-13] From now on, your family must circumcise every baby boy when he is eight days old. You must even circumcise any man or boy you have as a slave, both those born in your homes and those you buy from foreigners. This will be a sign that my promise to you will last forever. [14] Any man who isn't circumcised hasn't kept his part of the promise and cannot be one of my people.

Speaker Notes: God requires obedience! He is on the journey with you every step of the way. He knows what you need before you ask so God will provide calibration when it's needed to strengthen your faith and ensure obedience. In Abraham's case, His calling and purpose was to become the father of God's children. So His calibration mirrored the call. Can you imagine hearing God say cut off the tip of anything and immediately you cut it off? And not just you, you do the great chop to everyone in your household, children, servants, helpers. Everyone is getting chopped, today! So understand that your calibration or testing matches your purpose. The greater the purpose, the greater the calibration. God isn't giving you tests to fail, He is calibrating you so that you cannot fail.

### God tells Abraham that Sarah will have a son Genesis 17:15-17 AMP

[15] Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai (my princess), but her name will be Sarah (Princess). [16] I will bless her, and indeed I will also give you a son by her. Yes, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." [17] Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

#### Abram pleas for Ishmael's acceptance Genesis 17:18-19 AMP

[18] And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael [my firstborn] might live before You!" [19] But God said, "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed, and you shall name him Isaac (laughter); and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him.

God blesses Ishmael's descendants due to Abraham's plea Genesis 17:20-22 AMP [20] As for Ishmael, I have heard and listened to you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will greatly multiply him [through his descendants]. He will be the father of twelve princes (chieftains, sheiks), and I will make him a great nation. [Gen 25:12-18] [21] But My covenant [My promise, My solemn pledge], I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year." [22] And God finished speaking with him and went up from Abraham.

Abram circumcises his entire household the same day Genesis 17:23-27 GNT [23] On that same day Abraham obeyed God and circumcised his son Ishmael and all the other males in his household, including the slaves born in his home and those he had bought. [24] Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, [25] and his son Ishmael was thirteen. [26] They were both circumcised on the same day, [27] together with all of Abraham's slaves.

Speaker Notes: God tells Abram to Change Sarai's name to Sarah. She went from being Abraham's princess to God's princess, because she would become the mother of His chosen people. Sarai had to have some calibration too. She had to live with her plans before she would be ready for God's plan. If she could've trusted God to be God, she would've. But she could only see her reality. She couldn't see God is greater than anything we see, in fact God is so great, no one has seen Him but Jesus. So she had to live in the reality of her making to learn that trusting God is far better than trusting reality. One option will give you what you expect with a cost you can't afford, but the former will give you what you need even when you weren't expecting it.

So Abraham heard God and fell on his face laughing, like I know I'm tripping now. That can't be God. I have Ishmael and he is 13, the age when Jewish boys become men, and I'm gonna have a son at 100? And Sarah at 90? "If I know you lyin" was a person, his name was Abraham. But Abraham doesn't dare say it out loud, instead He says, "oh that Ishmael might live before you". How many know God has a sense of humor too?

He doesn't speak to the Words Abraham actually said, God speaks to Abraham's unbelief (the part he thought he could shield from God). But how many know there is no hiding from God? When He promised to never leave you or forsake you, it's not like when we make a promise. God's vows aren't ever broken even when ours are easily broken. So He reiterates His promise and makes it emphatically clear, "No, Sarah your wife will have your son and you will call him Isaac. Which means laughter." How many know our Father owns the last laugh?

God doesn't stop at His divine purpose, He even makes a nation out of our mistakes. He uses everything, the good, the bad, and the messy. And He does it all for your best interest. He does it all, even though we will never deserve His grace and mercy. But because God is GOOD, that is all He will ever be. Because God is love, that is all He will ever be. And because God is Master, El Eohim, and Adonai, you will always be His.

God fulfilled His promise and still made room for Abraham's plea for his Firstborn. Mistake or not, he was his son and while God's plan and Abraham's plan were not synonymous, that didn't stop God from allowing both plans to flourish. How many know when you serve God, He will declutter the mess? He will make use of your chaos and He will hear your plea. How many know we serve a God that blesses our messes when we serve him and we're obedient to His commands?

2 nations were formed that day, Judaism and Islam. God allowed both to flourish, the promise and the mistake. Both would be blessed, but only the promise would keep the covenant, and that's Issac through the lineage of the Israelites ( \( \int\) spoiler alert \( \int\).

# Chapter 18: Abram is promised a son

Abraham bows down Genesis 18:1-5 AMP

[1] Now the Lord appeared to Abraham by the terebinth trees of Mamre [in Hebron], while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. [2] When he raised his eyes and looked up, behold, three men were standing [a little distance] from him. When he saw them, he ran from

the tent door to meet them and bowed down [with his face] to the ground, [3] and Abraham said, "My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass by your servant [without stopping to visit]. [4] Please let a little water be brought [by one of my servants] and [you may] wash your feet, and recline and rest comfortably under the tree. [5] And I will bring a piece of bread to refresh and sustain you; after that you may go on, since you have come to your servant." And they replied, "Do as you have said."

**Speaker Notes:** This is the first time we see the Spirit of God come down in the form of a man. Abraham, never having seen God, knows it's Him instinctively and immediately by His presence. I don't think you caught it, Abraham knows God.

Man is different from God, we look at the appearance of people and decide if they know God. They would've taken one look at the man of God that got his wife's servant pregnant and called him and his wife all kinds of devil-worshipping swingers. They would've looked at all the men that died when Abraham was saving his nephew and called him an old killer. They would've looked at him chopping penises and called him crazy, but Abraham knew God because God knew him as a friend.

No one else took off running and bowed at their feet and Abraham never bowed before anyone else until now. Even when Melchizedek, the King Priest, came bringing bread and wine and exalting God, Abraham honored him by paying tithes but he treated him as a man, a holy man, but a man. When Abraham sees God however, He runs to meet Him and His first reaction is to serve Him. Let me quench your thirst. Let me wash your feet. Let me feed you. Let me provide you shade from the sun, I beg of you.

How many know this is the kind of service that God calls a friend? You are more than an employee or worker, you are beyond family, you are a friend begging me to wash my feet wanting nothing in return other than an opportunity to serve God. This is our perfect worship! Father God, lead us into your perfect worship! Teach us how to serve you so that we may be of service to you all the days of our lives. Let us not be concerned with what you can do and will do for us, let our thoughts be consumed with how we may serve you! And may your answer be as it is for Abraham "Do as you have said."

# Abraham tells Sarah to prepare cakes and he cooks the meat to bring to the 3 men Genesis 18:6-10 AMP

[6] So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quickly, get ready three measures of fine meal, knead it and bake cakes." [7] Abraham also ran to the herd and brought a calf, tender and choice, and he gave it to the servant [to butcher], and he hurried to prepare it. [8] Then he took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before the men; and he stood beside them under the tree while they ate. [9] "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. [10] Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

Speaker Notes: How many know when you are really serving God, you're gonna go and get as many people as possible to help you serve God. It starts as a personal relationship, and before you know it, you're needing someone to get God's water prepared, another to get His Meat, another to prepare milk, and a partner that will make the cakes while you cook. The closer you get to God the more you learn you need all His children to serve Him. This purpose, this call is too great for just one, this is the great commission. We are all running to serve God, we are running to know Him, to hear His Word, to learn His desires, to become whatever He intended us to be, and to be happy to do it. We serve God not of fear but because we know Him.

We know how he rescued us from the darkness and pulled us into the light. We know that our latter days are better than the former, we know that He is a promise keeper, our Savior, Master of the Universe, and Adonai. We know all His names but we know them like Hagar because we experience the God who sees, so we know El Roi, we recognize the Most High God, so we know El Elyon, and when there was nothing we could do to provide for ourselves, we met Jehovah Jireh and learned God provides, and when we were still broken we were restored by the God who heals, Jehovah Rapha.

# Sarah stands at tent entrance overlooking the conversation between her Abraham and the three visitors and laughs Genesis 18:11-15 NIV

[11] Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. [12] So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" [13] Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' [14] Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." [15] Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

**Speaker Notes:** How many know God knows us better than we know ourselves? God knows what will become of our actions, thoughts, words, and ideas before we ever utter a word. God knew that Abraham and Sarah would laugh at His plans if He told them you're going to have children when you're 100 and 90 years old. So God revealed what their faith could handle. How many know God would reveal more if you could believe more?

God knew when He called Abram to leave His father's house what His plans were for Abraham. But he also knew Abraham would need to walk with Him for 25 years before he would be ready for it. So He walked with him and allowed life to teach him that He served a God that would keep His Word even if you don't. He walked with Him long enough to learn that I can find joy and peace with God alone, even if I don't get the desires of my heart and even when it looks like I never will, God is enough. Having God in my life is completion, that is purpose, that is provision, that is peace, that is more than enough. And once He became content God not only revealed the promise, He revealed the timing of the promise. God knew that within 3 months Sarai would be pregnant and within a year she would know El Emunah, the Faithful God.

The Lord consults with the 2 other men as Abraham walks behind them Genesis 18:16-19 NIV

[16] When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. [17] Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? [18] Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. [19] For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Speaker Notes: I love this passage because it gives a little insight into how God considers us. God wants us to come to us with His pleas. God wants to share His plans with us, God wants to be in constant fellowship with us. He has no desire to be your God in heaven, for He is God with Us. He is the friend that sticks closer than a brother and the comforter that reveals all things, but He is also considerate of us. As this knowledge sets in I am brought to tears thinking of King David and how he must have felt when he said "what is a man that you're mindful of him?" Who am I that you, God of the universe, would consider me? And more, you consider me a friend? It hurts me to know that you have to consider me at all. I desire to be a friend to you. The one you can tell all your plans and not worry if your promises are safe. I desire to be yours, to serve you completely withholding nothing.

I want to be yours truly Lord! A worthy choice, entrusted to grow your Kingdom, to be obedient first, and faithful always. To shepherd your children and keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for all of His children what He has promised.

# God talks to Abraham as the 2 cities are engulfed in sin in the background. Genesis 18:20-22 NIV

[20] Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous [21] that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." [22] The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

Speaker Notes: After some consideration, God tells Abraham exactly what His plans are. Sodom and Gomorrah's sins are so bad, God had to come and see for Himself. It wasn't what they were doing that caused God to come, it was the outcry. God was listening to the pain of His children suffering and had to come see if it was as bad as the cries that made it to Him. How many are now certain that we truly are all God's children? The chosen isn't His favorite, the first born, the baby girl, the chosen are chosen to get the rest. His plan for redemption was never exclusive to one people, one race, one religion, or one family. God wants us all. John 6:39-40 NIV teaches

[39] And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. [40] For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

So let us work together to serve God, to lead as many children as possible to our Father, but by example. And let us do it without judgment, criticisms, pre-conceived notions, or biases. God's

Word is sufficient, so if we just concern ourselves with being obedient, then we can trust God to do the rest. Jesus saves, so we can just obey!

# Abraham negotiates asking God about 50 men Genesis 18:23-26 NIV

[23] Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? [24] What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? [25] Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" [26] The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

### Abraham negotiates asking God about 40-45 men Genesis 18:27-29 NIV

[27] Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, [28] what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." [29] Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

### Abraham negotiates asking God about 20-30 men Genesis 18:30-31 NIV

[30] Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." [31] Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

#### Abraham negotiates asking God about 10 men Genesis 18:32-33 NIV

[32] Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." [33] When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Speaker Notes: How many know Abraham loved His nephew Lot? Lot was his first sacrifice. He was born of his brother but, make no mistake, he was Abraham's first son. This moment that he's going back and forth negotiating for Sodom and Gomorrah, this plea wasn't for the evil cities. He didn't go to war to save the King of Sodom, he was fighting for his Phew Phew. His first love. God already knew Abraham so he knew His heart and even considered if it was safe to tell him. He considered that if he told Abraham he might run to his nephew and warn him or try to save the whole city just to save him like before. But God knew Abraham because they were walking together for 25 years.

God knew He could trust Him with the plan because God watched what he did when He revealed all of His plans before this one. He knew Abraham would come to Him with whatever he was feeling or thinking, and it didn't matter if it was a negotiation, a complaint, or a plea to save what God planned to destroy. The only thing that mattered to God is who Abraham ran to. Abraham didn't run to rescue like he did the first time, he didn't run to war like he did the second time, instead he never left God. He left his concerns with God, he left his plea with God, and he didn't leave the presence of God until he had enough faith and confidence to leave it all to God.

How many know this is the relationship God desires to have with all of His daughters? He wants us to leave it all to Him. He never asked you to be Superwoman to anyone but Him. He wanted you to put on your cape and fly to the safety of His presence. He wanted you to fight your battles with prayer and supplication. He never intended for you to battle flesh and blood because that isn't your enemy. It's the evil and darkness that we battle, not what it corrupts, the second we war against the corrupted, we become corrupted by it.

So let's give in, let God do the fighting, the protecting, the covering, and the battles. Give all of it to Him. The fears, the depression, the anxiety, the frustration, the illness, the concerns, the stress, your children, your nieces, your nephews, everything! Let God be the Master of your Universe because we are not equipped for the role and He is El Shaddai. We were made to serve Him, so let's serve Him with obedience, faithfulness, meekness, humility, patience, kindness, and with an unwavering loyalty and unquenchable desire.

And the body of Christ said "Amen!"

**Homework Assignment:** Begin this thanksgiving holiday by thanking God. Find some time everyday to look over your life and thank God! Celebrate and praise our Father for all He is and has been for us. Sing a hymn, write a poem, cry out in joy, prostrate your body in full submission and THANK GOD! Then enjoy time with your friends, family, and those you love. I hope to hear all about what you have to be thankful for next week on Soulful Saturday, 11/29/2025.

Thank you again for journeying with me on our faith walk! I love you infinitely!

