

- Is it worth trusting God? Is it worth the wait?

1. **Don't let your circumstances overshadow God**

- Key statement – Gen 11:30 – “Sarai was barren; she had no children”
- She lets culture, the opinions of others & her circumstances dictate her life
- 4 consequences:
 - a) **We get sucked into a downward spiral**
 - b) **We seek our own solutions, leaving God out – Gen 16:2**
 - c) **We end up in more hurt and misery – Gen 16:4,5**
 - d) **We become cynical and disbelieving – Gen 18:12**
 - So focused on circumstances that we make God impotent
 - So focused that we feel exempt from God's promises
- We can't change our circumstances but we can change where we look at – God or them?

2. **Let God overshadow your circumstances**

- Amazing grace – instead of withdrawing promise God restates it (17:16)
- Doesn't get what she deserves – should make us rethink
 - a) **Listen to what God says about himself – Gen 18:14**
 - God gives Sarah a big view of what he can do
 - b) **Listen to when God uncovers your sin – Gen 18:15**
 - Don't shift the blame. Take responsibility
 - c) **Turn from disbelief to belief**
 - Sarah repents, and acts in faith on God's promise - Gen 21:1
 - Root out doubts, and rub in truth into everyday life
- These three steps are the upward spiral that causes growth

3. **God is a God who turns cynicism into joy**

- Gen 18-20 are a backdrop against which the amazing grace of God (ch 21) is displayed.
- Gen 21:6 – Sarah laughs again, this time in joy and delight
- She finds that God is a God who is worth trusting
- God had promised laughter (Isaac = laughter) with the birth of this miracle child
- God often takes what we think is impossible, and brings joy through it
- A childless woman has a child - a pointer from God.
- It is through the ultimate miracle child, Jesus, that God brings deepest happiness and restoration to broken humanity
- We need what Jesus did in order to find lasting happiness
- We can look at Christ, the same way Sarah would look at Isaac and say – I know God is worth trusting.



Notices

- Sab 8th Evening service at Mark & Judith's 8pm
Psalm singing & learning new tunes
- Tue Men - Disciplines of a Godly Man - ch 14
Ladies - Sermon discussion @ Mark & Judith's 8pm
- Thur 26th Letterkenny fellowship are invited to the commissioning service of Robert Robb as Pastor of Enniskillen fellowship. Let Mark/Judith know by 8th Feb if you are going. Enniskillen Agricultural College at 7.45pm
- Sat 28th Leaflet distribution in Enniskillen - invites to services starting 1st March
Starting around mid-morning. Contact Rev Robert Robb if you wish to help.
Tel: 048 7772 2136 mob: 0044 751 802 0228 email: revrobbrp@hotmail.com
- Thu 12th Banner of Truth NI Conference for young people
The Book that Changed the World - Can we Trust the Bible?
The Crescent Church, University Road, Belfast.
Speakers Include: Ted Donnelly & Mark Johnston
- 21st March Go-relief team meeting - Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm

Sabbath 15th - Jochebed (Exodus 1,2; Hebrews 11:23;-27)

Opening Psalm: 94:1-6

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