

## It Is My Faith and Nobody Else's

Hebrews 11:11-12

In these two verses there are three lessons about faith from the life of Sarah that apply to all believers. For those of you struggling with faith, wondering where yours is, or why you seem to not have enough, these two verses provide some great encouragement and provide us principles to strengthen our faith.

### I. Your relationship with God is not dependent upon any person but you.

This may seem obvious at first glance, but dependence on other people seems ingrained within us. Some believe a child's faith is dependent on parents, or a wife is dependent on her husband, etc. *"By faith even Sarah herself received ability ..."* (v.11). The word "herself" is emphatic. Sarah did not receive the strength she needed from Abraham, or from Abraham's faith. She received it from God by the gift of his grace through her own faith. Put your name here: *"By faith \_\_\_\_\_ received strength."*

A. You cannot blame any failure in your spiritual life on any other person.  
B. You are not dependent upon your future spiritual growth on any other person.

### II. Your faith in God is evidence that God has made promises to you and will be faithful to them.

Note the language: *"By faith ... Sarah received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life."* Faith is the reason given why Sarah was able to bear a son and give birth to Isaac at the age of 90. *"... since she considered Him faithful who had promised."* She considered God able to do as He says.

A. Faith is the means through which God works.  
Sure, God could fulfill promises without faith, but He has chosen to be faithful to those in whom He gives the grace to trust Him. This is how sovereignty and personal responsibility go together.

B. Without faith in God, you have no guarantee of God's grace.  
Someone might ask the question, "Would Sarah have conceived Isaac had she NOT believed God?" The answer is no. Why? Because God will never grant grace to those He never leads to trust Him.

C. So strengthen your faith by focusing on God's promises to you and His faithfulness.  
What is it that God has promised you? You will never get far in your spiritual growth until you have a sure and solid understanding of all that God has promised to you in Christ Jesus.

### III. Nothing is impossible when I hear God's promise and believe Him faithful.

*"Therefore there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, many descendants"* (v. 12).

Sarah's faith was as essential to the fulfillment of the promise as Abraham's. Yes, it is God who fulfills the promise. Yes, it is God who gives us faith. But, still, faith, personal faith exercised toward God is essential to receiving the blessing he has promised. – *"Your faith has saved you"* (Mark 5:34). Because Sarah believed God, Christ came into the world in the fullness of time to redeem His people. Listen to A. W. Pink's comments on this verse and the word "therefore":

*The opening 'Therefore' of verse 12 points to the blessed consequence of Sarah relying upon the faithfulness of God in the face of the utmost natural discouragements. From her faith there issued Isaac, and from him, ultimately, Christ Himself. And this is recorded for our instruction. **Who can estimate the fruits of faith?** Who can tell how many lives may be affected for good, even in generations yet to come, through your faith and my faith today! Oh how the thought of this should stir us up to cry more earnestly 'Lord, increase our faith' to the praise of the glory of Thy grace.*