

March 13, 2022  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**Genesis Behind the Curtain // Abraham's Journey of Faith**  
**Episode 8: Salvation by Submission**  
Pastor Harry Wilson

**Genesis 16:1-10 (NIV)**

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; <sup>2</sup>so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. <sup>3</sup>So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. <sup>4</sup>He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. <sup>5</sup>Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."<sup>6</sup> "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.<sup>9</sup> Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."<sup>10</sup> The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

**Vs. 1-4**

- There are no short cuts to the promises of God.
- **Open Door Policy:** A life that is attentive to God given opportunities. These opportunities reveal themselves by their alignment with biblical values. They require no scheming or conniving, just patient obedience. This policy is directly opposed to the devil's desire for us to be a people that kick down doors that have not been opened to us.

**Vs. 5-6**

- Too often we invite harm and are surprised at the consequences.
- Sin is the preeminent issue for all humanity. It cannot be solved by human invention; rather, it necessitates divine intervention.

**Vs. 7-10**

- Christ is our unexpected divine intervention. He offends our sensibilities by showing us a path which requires submission, death to self, and faith in a crucified savior. Yet, it is by tread of this path that we find life.
- Faith fundamentally is an act of submission.

**"Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall carry you."**

*- Thomas a Kempis*

**El Roi:** God who sees me.

**Ishmael:** God hears/listens

**Small Group Questions:**

1. Have you had times that you have kicked down doors that were not open to you? What were the results?
2. What makes the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ offensive?
3. What ways can we practice submission to Christ in our lives?
4. If asked, how would you answer the question: Where have you come from? And, where are you going?
5. What aspect of your life do you need to remember that God hears and sees you?