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Genesis Behind The Curtain: Abraham – Part 3

Episode 2: Promises, Promises

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Genesis 21:1-8

¹ Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." ⁷ And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." ⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.

1. Understanding The Promises of God.
2. Walking in the Promises of God.

1. Understanding the Promises of God

Promise Theology: The belief among Christians that God makes specific commitments, assurances, or pledges to His followers, both in terms of broader, eternal promises and individual promises to individual believers.

a. Parsing the Promises:

1. **Eternal Promises:** Examples include God's promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16), the assurance of God's unfailing love (Romans 8:38-39), and the promise of resurrection and a future with Him (1 Corinthians 15:22).
2. **Personal Promises:** These are promises that some Christians believe God communicates directly to them through prayer, personal experiences, or a deep sense of conviction. These promises are often specific to an individual's circumstances, needs, or calling.
 - a. **Matthew 7:7** *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek **and** you **will** find; knock **and** the door **will** be opened to you."*

2. Walking in the Promises of God: *¹ Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.*

- a. **"And the Lord was gracious":** Any promise from the God of the universe is a grace given promise.
- b. **God's promises are not dependent on your perfection:**
 - i. **Sarah laughed at God:**
 - ii. **Vs. 6** Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."
 - The name **"Isaac"** is of Hebrew origin and is often given to boys. It is derived from the Hebrew name יִצְחָק (Yitzchaq), which means "he will laugh" or "laughter."

Practical Takeaways:

1. Get your promises in proper order.
 - a. Hold tight to the eternal promises and loosely to the personal promises of God.
2. Sow seeds into your personal promises.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding God's Promises: What do you think promise theology means, and how does it relate to the biblical story of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac in Genesis 21:1-21?
2. Eternal vs. Personal Promises: Can you identify examples of eternal promises and personal promises in your own faith journey?
3. Sarah's Laughter: Sarah laughed when she heard about God's promise of Isaac. How do you think her laughter evolved from skepticism to joy? What can we learn from her journey of faith?
4. Walking in God's Promises: How can we walk in the promises of God, even when circumstances seem impossible or challenging. What practical steps can we take to trust God's promises more fully?
5. Balancing Trust and Action: The sermon suggests holding tight to eternal promises and loosely to personal promises. How can we strike the right balance?