

## CYNICISM TOWARDS GOD

**Request:** How do I get rid of my cynicism towards God and regain my confidence of faith towards God?

One believer came immediately to mind when I read this Requested Bible Study (RBS), Sarah.

At one time, Sarah was on fire for God along with her husband Abraham. She left her family and homeland to become a foreign missionary's wife. God had promised them great things in the plan of God (Gen.12: 1-5) land, seed, and blessings. One of those promises was a male heir and descendants as the stars of heaven (Gen.15:1-6).

However, Sarah was barren and years passed without God fulfilling the promise of a seed (Gen.16:1-2). In their 90's, Sarah and Abraham had become cynical regarding this promise (Gen.17:15-17; 18:10-15).

Principle: God may tarry but He is never late in fulfilling His promises – God's perfect timing (Eccl.3: 1-8; 8:5-7; Ps.31: 15) "All the events and circumstances of life are in the hands of the Lord, my God." (NIV).

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Cynicism towards God</b>
--

**1. First doctrinal principle that we must learn from Sarah's experience is that as a God of promise, God will do what is necessary to bring it to pass in perfect timing in human history.**

When Abraham was 99 and Sarai was 90, God sent the following message to them - "as for Sarai (contentious) your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah (mother of nations). I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." (Gen.17:15-16)

What was Abraham's response to this message from God? (Gen.17:17-19)\_\_\_\_\_.

What do you think is the significance to Sarai's name change? \_\_\_\_\_.

There were actually three name changes associated with the fulfillment of this one divine promise.

- God from (El / God) to El Shaddai (God Almighty / omnipotent) (Gen.17: 1-2).
- Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many nations) (Gen.17:3-6).
- Sarai (contentious) to Sarah (mother of nations) (Gen.17:15-16).

Their name changes are related to their New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) role in messianic history.

**2. Second doctrinal principle that we must learn from Sarah's experience is that God is faithful to His promises no matter what the circumstances (Rom.4:13-25; Heb.10:23).**

Sarah knows the promise of God by heart. But from her present viewpoint, her situation seems hopeless, bleak, and impossible.

There is no longer any human logic that can be applied to the promise of God (2 Cor.5: 7). Is it the truth of God's word or the faithfulness of God in question that has caused Sarah to find it difficult if not impossible to believe?

Sarah was in what would appear to be an impossible human situation except for the WORD OF GOD.

**3. It was at this time that angels appeared as visitors and shared a pertinent prophetic word from God to Abraham. They declared Sarah would become pregnant next year at this very time (Gen.18: 9-15; 18:10).**

Sarah overheard and laughed cynically at the good news promises of God's word.

- Do human circumstances change the character or the promises of God?
- Why wasn't she willing to believe the word of God as truthful?
- What has caused Sarah to lose confidence in the character and promises of God?
- What has caused her to become cynical of God's faithfulness to fulfill God's promises?

**4. Sarah is at a place in her spiritual life where she hears what she thinks and reacts to it rather than what God actually says (Prov.23: 7).**

Twenty years ago, Sarah heard the promise of God and believed it. But when it didn't happen according to her expectation and plans she became disillusioned with God and His word.

How has this happened to Sarah and how can it be changed? Sarah has believed a lie - Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking - and is operating from it in her spiritual life.

What is the OMCD lie? "So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'after I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?'" (Gen.18:12, read 15)

Notice Lord's response to it – "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is any thing too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." (Gen.18:13-14)

It is never too late for God Almighty to fulfil His promises in your life. Remember that the fulfillment of God's promises are not determined by your circumstances or your character. If this were the case, Sarah would not have gotten Isaac (laughter).

**5. Sarah learned that by changing her mind towards the character and promises of God, her outlook and approach to her circumstances associated to the promise changed (Eph.4: 22-24; Rom.12: 2).**

Two Greek conjunctions were used to emphasize the importance of God's faithfulness in Sarah overcoming cynicism. "By faith, even (kai) Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even (kai) beyond the proper time of life, since she considered (hegeomai / a.m.ind) (to lead before the mind, to suppose) Him faithful who had promised (ton epaggelomai / a.m.ptc)." (Heb.11:11)

Sarah received a miracle pregnancy because God is El Shaddai and because God is faithful to His promises (Rom.4:17) and (Heb.11:11). From divine viewpoint, her situation doesn't matter only her faith is important (Rom.4:21).

- Sarah learned that there is always an APPOINTED TIME associated with the promises of God (Eccl.3).
- Sarah learned that nothing is impossible for God (Gen.18:14; Luke 1:37).
- Sarah learned that God is faithful even when we aren't (2 Tim.2:13).