Peace At Last Ministries (PALM)

Sharing God's comfort with the terminally-ill, their loved ones and caregivers.

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Paul & Kathleen Humphreys

When God makes a promise!

Sarah, a 90-year-old childless woman in the Bible, was given a promise from God; she would become pregnant and give birth to a son.



While Sarah initially laughed at the absurdity, she ultimately chose to believe God; to simply take Him at His word. But her faith in God was not presumptuous. It was based on her knowledge of Him as the promise-making, promise-keeping Creator.

With the eventual birth of her child, Isaac, God accomplished for Sarah what was humanly impossible otherwise. Thus, the writer of Hebrews commends her as one who,

> *"… considered Him faithful who had promised."* Hebrews 11:11 NASB 1995

Similarly, the apostle Paul explains how Sarah's husband, Abraham, was faced with a choice. Being about 100-years of age there was no chance, physiologically, he could father a child. Abraham is recorded coming to terms with this reality and with Sarah's lack of fertility when he,

> *"…contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;"* Romans 4:19 NASB 1995

Yet, Paul points out how Abraham,

> *"…with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform."* Romans 4:20-21 NASB 1995

And perform He did. The birth of Isaac is a tribute to God's power and faithfulness. The apostle Paul unpacks the significance of this historical event as it relates to believers today when he writes,

> *"Therefore IT* [ABRAHAM'S FAITH] *WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."* Romans 4:22-24 NASB 1995

Today, God promises righteousness and eternal life to a world that is spiritually impotent. Like Sarah and Abraham, we are in a humanly impossible situation—we cannot rid ourselves of the sin that separates us from God; neither can we produce the righteousness necessary for acceptance by Him. Amazingly, God has made a merciful and gracious promise through His only Son, Jesus Christ! We read,

> *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."* John 5:24 NASB

And,

> *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 NASB 1995

In my work as a hospice chaplain, I am privileged to direct hospice patients, family members and caregivers to the promise of God. Some scoff, even laugh at the absurdity of acceptance by God apart from religious devotion and rituals. But others, like Sarah and Abraham, simply choose to believe God's promise, taking Him at His word. Such trust is at the heart of the gospel message.

> *"With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:26 NASB 1995

It continues to be an enormous privilege to point souls in crisis to our promise-making, promise-keeping Creator. Those who believe Him, enjoy the peace and comfort of God on account they have,

> *"…considered Him faithful who had promised."* Hebrews 11:11 NASB 1995

Ever grateful for your prayers and support,



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Paul and Kathleen



2817 Sandra Lane Waukesha, WI 53188
Paul Cell 262 527 4297 –Kathleen Cell 262 707 9991
paul@palministries.net / kathleen@palministries.net
www.palministries.net