

Bible Study

Believing in the Blessing

Have you ever asked God for something over and over but felt as if He wasn't listening? Did you settle for something because you didn't believe God was going to bring you what you really wanted? In this study, learn how God longs to bless us if we ask and truly believe He will.

Begin by reading the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 16:1-16 and 18:1-15.

1. God promises if we ask Him, He will give us not only all we need but also the desires of our hearts. Abraham and Sarah asked God for an heir that would carry on their legacy. After a time had passed, God provided their son Isaac.

James 4:2 says, "You have not because you ask not." If we never ask God for what we need or want, how can we expect Him to answer us?

- Is there something in your life you need or want but haven't asked God for it? Ask Him now.

2. God promises us His best, but we have to trust Him to bring it in His time. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the night sky, but instead of waiting on God's promise, Abraham took his own steps to insure he would have an heir.

By sleeping with Sarah's maidservant, Abraham didn't fulfill God's promise; he created conflict and unrest (16:4-6).

- Have you ever tried to get your own blessing outside of God's timing? Describe the results.
- Sarah's inability to trust in God's timing didn't just affect her but also those around her. How did her impatience hurt others around her (vv. 4-6)?

While we are limited to our own resources to fulfill our needs and desires, God holds the entire universe in His hands and promises to bless us from all He has (Phil. 4:19).

3. We have to believe God will deliver on His promise, even when it seems impossible. When the messenger told Abraham that Sarah would bear a son, Abraham was skeptical. After all, 90-year-old women did not bear children. Sarah simply laughed at the notion. Both of them forgot that God's actions are frequently beyond the realm of logic and understanding.

- Jesus said in Luke 18:27, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God." Have you ever asked God for something that the world around you thought was impossible? How did He answer your prayer?
- What are you currently asking God for that logic and reason say is impossible? What would you think the Father would have you believe about His potential to bless you in this area?

Sometimes our friends and family will feed our doubt about God providing for us. What should we do in those situations?

- Read chapters one and two in the book of Job. Think about how Job reacted to the loss of all he had. Would you have been able to trust that God would heal you and bless you again? Why or why not?
- Look at how Job's wife responds in chapter two, verse nine. Have you ever had family members that "encouraged" you this way? Describe how you reacted.
- Later on in Job, we see his friends' responses to his plight. Are your friends supportive, encouraging you to wait on God's blessing? What steps can you take to develop friendships with people who are more spiritually-minded?

4. For God to bless us, we must be obedient to His Word. Disobedience will always be an obstacle to receiving His blessings, no matter how small the offense. We must take great care to correct and repent of any disobedient behavior before we anticipate His blessings.

- Is there anything in your life right now that might be hindering you from receiving God's blessings? If so, write a prayer of confession and choose to turn away from that sin.

Disobedience to God may seem profitable at the time, but it will never bring about His blessings.

- What did Saul learn about the consequences of disobedience in 1 Samuel 15?

Closing: God promises over and over in the Scriptures to bless us, even beyond what we can imagine. In order for Him to fulfill that promise, however, we have to truly believe that He will. God's promises may seem illogical and downright impossible at times. But for the Creator of the universe, nothing is impossible.

Prayer: Father, thank You for promising that You will bless me, even beyond what I can fathom. Help me to trust You and not seek my own methods for receiving blessings. Help me not to listen to those around me who may tell me to disregard Your ways. I pray in Jesus' name, amen.