

Sarah Laughed (Genesis 18)

Laughter is good for the soul; there is therapy in laughter because it helps the soul in many ways; it expresses amusement at something funny. But laughter has its dark side. It also expresses sarcasm, doubt, ridicule. Sarah, the Bible says, laughed to herself when she heard the Lord promising her a son (vs.10-11). She had passed the age of childbearing and said, After I have become shriveled up and my lord is old, will I have delight (vs.12)? The Lord asked her husband, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Can I really have a baby when I'm old?' Not only did she doubt the promise, but when confronted she lied, by saying "I did not laugh". Doubt expressed laughter and fear expressed lie. Sarah was only looking at the impossibilities of her body, and not the at the fact that the Creator of her body, was more than able to rejuvenate her womb and cause a miracle to happen in her old and shriveled up body. He does not lie or change His mind, for He is not man who changes his mind (I Sam. 15: 29). Doubt is without a doubt, a destroyer of the faith; the impediment of spiritual growth and the robber of the joy of hope.

Sarah was ignorant of the fact that she was chosen to be the woman from which the Messianic lineage would come –YAHSHUA the Messiah. She did not know in her "shriveled up body" the meaning of YAHWEH'S plan for the world through her life, neither believed the miracle. The Lord said, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall come from her (Genesis 17:16). The Lord asks another question, Is anything impossible for the Lord (vs.14)? What could be impossible for the Creator of all living thing, including her life? There stood before her the holy and awesome God confronting her attitude of doubt, and the worse thing she did was to deny she had laughed at His promise of a son to her and her husband. Her attitude here should have been that of repentance and not of denying His words. "YHAWEH is not a man that He should lie, not a son of a man that He should repent". But Sarah is not alone. Don't we behave the same way? We do have His Living Word with all the spiritual blessings for our spiritual "shriveled up body"; His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires (II Peter 1:3-4). Yet we walk as spiritual orphans void of joy relying on fear and doubt when circumstances are not very pleasant.

Isaiah 53 is a chapter of the Bible every believer should memorize and plant in his/her heart. He bore our sicknesses, He carried our pains, He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our guilt and iniquities; He took our punishment and gave us peace; we are **healed by His wounds**. But we continue astray like sheep; we have turned to our own way, while He suffered for our iniquities. We, like Sarah, have laughed at what He did for us, when we do not accept and believe these truths. We say we believe, but we cannot apply them in our hearts to see God's glory in fulfillment of His promises to us. We often disbelieve His Word, reason why we are not being blessed with the promise of healing. We often laugh to ourselves at someone praying for healing. It seems that the glory of His presence has departed the churches, because

we are walking not in His healing, but in doubt and fear. Psalm 103 speaks to the soul and commands it to praise the Lord and His holy name, not forgetting all His benefits. Among them are the forgiveness of our sin and the healing of all our diseases. How can you and I command the soul to praise the Lord for all He has done for us and for continue to fulfill His promises in us, when we are laughing at them in doubt and fear? We are simply mediocre believers, empty of Him and filled with the spirit of religion. We are the Sarahs of today indifferent to His Word.

His Word says in Exodus 15:26b. I am the Lord Who heals you; and in Psalm 107: 20, He sends forth His word and heals them and rescues them from the pit and destruction. Why is it so difficult for us to mix these promises with faith to see the results in our life? It is because the tradition of men has blinded our spiritual eyes not to see to believe with a child's faith. We believe that things have changed today and the Bible is not current for today's life style. The healing was for then and not for now. Our merciful God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He walked the earth healing all those who came to Him; He is still in the business of healing. But our sins and life style of unbelief and doubt have separated us from His blessings, because we have rejected them. We well know that disease is a result of sin; since the fall of Adam and Eve. We well know that suffering is also the time for our sanctification. We would not had to be sanctified if we were without sin. There is always room for repentance in times of suffering. James confirms this in chapter five verses fourteen through sixteen. Is anyone among you sick? He should call in the church elders and they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name. And the prayer of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess to one another therefore your faults and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The **earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available**. If we believe the impossibilities of our healing, we will not be healed, because we are limiting the Lord's ability to perform by doubting that which He has promised to do when we pray without faith. Sarah presented the impossibility of her "shriveled up body" to bear a child. But in spite of Sarah, God was faithful to His promise to Abraham, for He believed and it was credited to his faith, although Abraham listened to his wife Sarah when she asked him to have a child through his Egyptian maid, instead of waiting for the promise to be fulfilled in God's time. Abraham also laughed when he heard that a son was to be born to his wife at her old age. Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said in his heart. Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old bear a son (Genesis 17:17)?

Is there anything impossible for the Lord? What is your answer to this question? Do you think your disease is greater than the power of God to heal you? Do you feel unworthy of His healing and impatient to walk in it day by day? Do you think that healing is to happen fast or else there is no healing happening to you? Our All-knowing God has a time to accomplish His will in each one of us. Surrender then to His will and stop doubting Him.