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A FAITH FOR ALL SEASONS

I. Introduction

God's intention is to use the changes and challenges of each season of our lives to strengthen our trust in Him.

A. Sarah went through many seasons and changes and challenges to her faith.

B. God had made a promise to her husband:

Go out from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Gen. 12:1,2.

C. Sarah decides to help God bring about his plan.

D. God again reiterates His promise making it clear that He will be faithful and the promise of God will be through Sarah. Isaac is born!

And she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Heb. 11:11

E. Sarah actually failed, but God remained faithful to her.

F. Our lives are more about who God is than who we are.

II. Remember Who God is...

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4

A. God is all powerful...

Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jer. 32:17

“The whole matter is accomplished with a word and a breath. See the magnificent ease with which God accomplishes all his purposes. If you and I have a great thing to do, what puffing and panting, what straining and tugging there must be...it is not so with the Almighty One. Here is our world spinning round everyday in 24 hours. And yet it does not make so much noise as a spinning top. If I enter a factory I hear a deafening din, but God’s great wheels revolve without noise or friction. All the Divine work is simply, easily and beautifully managed.” C.H Spurgeon

B. God is all knowing...

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all together. Ps. 139:1-4

C. God is faithful, steadfast and good...

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! Ps. 117:2

“He will do us good, real good, lasting good, only good, every good. He will make us good, and this is to do us good to the highest degree.” C.H. Spurgeon

D. God is compassionate...

...casting all your anxieties on him, because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

III. Remember God’s Past Faithfulness...

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Ps. 77:11,12

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. Ps. 89:1

A. We always begin with the gospel.

B. Write down all the ways that God is showing Himself faithful during the trials so we can look back at another story of His faithfulness.

IV. Remember God's Promises of Future Grace...

He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all; how shall he not with him freely give us all things? Rom. 8:32

“How is it imaginable that God should withhold, after this, spiritual blessings or temporal blessings from His people? How shall He not call them effectually, justify them freely, sanctify them thoroughly, and glorify them eternally? How shall He not clothe them, feed them, protect and deliver them? Surely if He would not spare His own Son one stroke, one tear, one groan, one sigh, one circumstance or misery, it can never be imagined that ever He should, after this, deny or withhold from his people, for those sakes all this was suffered, any mercies, any comforts, any privilege, spiritual or temporal, which is good for them.” John Flavel

- A. God has promised to give us grace for every situation.
- B. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.
- C. He has promised to use every situation to bring about growth in our lives.
- D. How does God accomplish his purpose in our lives?

“Not by shielding us from assault by the world, the flesh, and the devil, nor by protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstances, nor yet by shielding us from troubles created by our own temperament and psychology, but rather by exposing us to all these things so as to overwhelm us with a sense of our own inadequacy and to drive us to cling to him more closely. This is the ultimate reason, from our standpoint, why God fills our lives with troubles and perplexities of one sort and another: it is to insure that we shall learn to hold him fast.” J.I. Packer

V. Practical Steps

- A. Identify specific areas where we are failing to trust God.
- B. Be vigilant to maintain the spiritual disciplines, (prayer, Bible study, meditation)
- C. Engage others to help you in the process.
- D. Confess your unbelief to others.

*“Faith is a refusal to panic, come what may. Whatever your circumstances at this moment, bring all you know to be true of your relationship to God to bear upon it. Then you will know full well that He will never allow anything to happen to you that is harmful. ‘All things work together for good to them that love God.’ He loves you with an everlasting love. I do not suggest that you will be able to understand everything that is happening. You may not have a full explanation of it; but you will know for certain that God is not unconcerned. **That is impossible.** The One who has done the greatest thing of all for you, must be concerned about you in everything, and though the clouds are thick and you cannot see His face, you know *He is there.*”* Martin-Lloyd Jones, *Spiritual Depression*