

## ***Faith and Deeds Part 11***

We will continue in this message to study the faith and the deeds of Abram. Faith in Christ need to be accompanied by good deeds as God ordained for us to achieve, which He prepared in advance for us to do. After we are saved God had prepared for us good works that we need to do as we read here: ***“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)*** You cannot do your own, but you need to do exactly what God had prepared for you to do. Some say I want that or I like this; actually you can use these words in this way: ‘I like what God like,’ or ‘I want what God wants’.

In ***Genesis 16***, Abraham did something that should not be done, and it is mentioned to teach us and to correct us. When you walk with God, you may do certain things wrong, but that is not the end but the beginning to correct yourself. meditate and learn the lesson. Let us read ***Genesis 16***, meditate on the events and learn the lessons:

***“1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.” (Genesis 16:1-2 KJV)*** Sarai bare Abram no children. That might made her feel guilty that she was not doing well toward meeting the need of Abram to have a child to inherit him, so she resorted for a human solution. ***The promises of God would be fulfilled by faith and not by doing your own and try to help yourselves. Some they say that God wants you to help yourself and he will help you. True, that you need to do your part, but in certain situations the only way that you can help yourself is by waiting upon God and no to do your own.*** Sarai resorted to do her own and started to use her human wisdom and understanding to find out solutions to help Abram in the struggled situation that he was passing through to find a heir.

***“1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.” (Genesis 16:1 KJV)*** Here it mentioned that Sarai had a handmaid. The purpose of the handmaid was to help Sarai in her work in the daily life, and not for other purpose. ***Certain times, God give certain things good in your life to make your life easier and to make you comfortable. But what you do is that you use what God gives you for wrong use. For example if God give you day off this for rest for you to relax and not to go part time.***

***“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.” (Proverbs 3:5-8 KJV)*** Sometimes you have your own wisdom, and instead of waiting upon God to bless you and to be content and thankful of what you have, you will start to think to do other things thinking that your life will be better. But these things that you are thinking to start to do they are evil in the site of God and you will be sinning against God when you start to do them.

Like you have work and salary, and you are not satisfied with that because you need more money to make yourself rich, and start to work part time in your rest time and that will cause you tiredness and sicknesses. Or you will work in your holiday and break your Sabbath and not to come to church just to earn more money, but with such you are moving away from God and from His will and putting yourself in troubles because of your love of money, your ambition and your non willingness to wait upon God.

Another scenario, you want to have more income beside your job, so for such you go and borrow money in order to start a business to earn more money, and what will happen in most of the times, the business will collapse and you will loss your money, and instead of more income you will end up in debt.

Another scenario, people withhold their tithes in order to collect more money, but they forget with such attitude they are inviting the devourer to come and destroy their hard work and what they had labored and worked for years.

***“7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.” (Proverbs 3:7-8 KJV)*** ***Stop all this non sense and naughtiness and come to God in repentance and such will be a healing to you; healing to your body, soul and spirit. You don't have a problem, so please don't make a problem for yourself.***

***“2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her.” (Genesis 16:2 KJV)*** Sarai told Abram that God had restrained her to bear children, and based on that understanding and conclusion, she proposed to Abram to go unto Hagar her maid and sleep with her so that Sarai may get children through Hagar. See here the weak faith of Sarai and how she was depending on her own understanding and wisdom, and how she was not aware that being the wife of Abram and that she is still alive, Abram cannot go to other woman. ***Any married person cannot leave her husband or his wife and go to other partner if his partner is still alive. Marrying other partner while your partner is alive consider adultery.*** ***“2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” (Romans 7:2-3 KJV)*** Beside that Sarai confessed that God did not give her children, so she needed to stop at that point and wait upon God to come and bless her.

In many occasions the believers in Christ when God is delaying in giving them what He had promised them, they feel the urge to go and do something to help themselves, thinking that God had forgotten them, or that God may want them to solve their problems with their own self. But that is not correct, and you need to understand when God had promised you something, then you need to wait upon God until He will come and fulfill what He had promised by Himself. God has His own timing that is different of your timing. Otherwise blessing yourself or you try to fulfill the promise of God for yourself will cause lot of troubles, bad consequences and in addition nothing good will be accomplished.

***“3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.” (Genesis***

**16:3 KJV)** After ten years waiting Sarai was not able to resist the temptation that she was passing through as a wife without child and as a family who are in a strange land and with no children to inherit them. Abram was at the age of eighty five years and she was at the age of seventy five years, and that age factor might add more to their shaken believe. **Do not let your age causing you to shake in your faith and believe in God.**

***“4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.” (Genesis 16:4 KJV)*** Abram also agreed with Sarai and did not reason of what Sarai proposed to him the sin of adultery was. He went ahead and took Hagar as second wife and went unto her and she got conceived.

***“and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes”:*** Troubles started in the family when Hagar saw herself become pregnant. She became proud and started to look down on Sarai her mistress. Hagar forgot that she was a servant for Sarai. **Some people when little promotion comes into their lives they will start to boast seeing themselves bigger than their size and start to be rude and look down on others. Don't be like such. That is how you know the people; when they will receive promotion and you will see how they will behave.** But Hagar here also was not aware that she was in a sin and that sin was adultery and time will come, one day that she needed to be sent away.

Sarai who wanted to solve her problem, now added more troubles in her life; **that is why don't meddle and try to accomplish the promise of God, because you will add troubles to your life, but rather, be patience and wait upon God that He will fulfill that to you. Wait upon God to increase your income, wait upon God to give you a partner, wait upon God to give you children, wait upon God to promote you, and so on.**

***“5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.” (Genesis 16:5 KJV)*** Here Sarai started to fight and quarrel with Abram because of Hagar, who started to despise her when she saw that she was pregnant. **That is what will happen when you go with your own to do and perform the promise of God; you will find yourself put into troubles.** She told Abram, ***“the LORD judge between me and thee”***. But she did not realize that what she suggested to Abram to do was the very wrong thing and the reason of her troubles. **Most of the time when people take wrong step they are not realizing the wrong that they did but instead they will accuse others that they are the reason of the troubles that they were put in. The people will accuse God for the troubles that are in, they may accuse their partners, their parents, their bosses, their colleagues and so on because they cannot see their mistakes and what they did wrong.** Sarah said to Abram, ***“the LORD judge between me and thee”***. When you do something and you find yourself fall into troubles, don't forget to sit down with God to find out whose fault is and what if you are the reason behind such before you are accusing others.

***“6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thine hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.” (Genesis 16:6 KJV)*** Here also Abram throw the responsibility from himself and instead of repenting and separating himself from Hagar, he threw back Hagar to Sarai to deal with her being her maid. Abram said to his wife Sarai about Hagar ***“do to her as it pleaseth thee.”*** True, that Hagar despised Sarai

and need to be disciplined for that, but Hagar was also a victim that she was put in that situation that Sarai and Abram was the cause.

***“And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face”:*** Sarai dealt with her harshly more than what she deserved; therefore she was forced to leave. **When you are having the opportunity to be in the upper hand remember to be considerate and not deal with people more than of what they deserve so they will not go out of the way.**

***“7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.” (Genesis 16:7 KJV)*** Here Hagar was in a distress, the bad treatment of Sarai to her led her to escape while she was pregnant, wandering in the desert looking for water, and while she was in distress, and here the Lord appeared to her. The angel of the Lord means the Lord Himself appeared and revealed Himself to her. **The critical and the struggling time in your life, the Lord shall not leave you alone, but He shall come to you, found you as He found Hagar, and visit you and show Himself to you to comfort you, to assure you and to let you go back to the right way of life.** The angel of the Lord here appeared to her as a man, and this is one of the appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word, in the Old Testament. So here Hagar for the first time met the Lord in her life. She was in sin, and the Lord revealed himself to her to guide her in the right way of life. What were her sins? Adultery, being the second wife, and despising and not submitting to her mistress Sarai. **The Lord Jesus Christ will reveal Himself to you in order to correct you and to bring you back from your sins into the right path of life.**

***“7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.” (Genesis 16:7 KJV)*** The appearance of the Lord to Hagar was coinciding with the presence of the fountain of water. As if God was telling to Hagar, you may have a difficult life as life in the wilderness, but I am here with you and will help you and provide your needs and give you water even in the wilderness. The angel of the Lord met her at the way to Shur which was near Egypt as we read here in these Scriptures, ***“17 And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people. 18 And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that is before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: and he died in the presence of all his brethren.” (Genesis 25:17-18 KJV)*** ***“7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.” (1 Samuel 15:7 KJV)*** So what we can conclude here that Hagar was moving back toward Egypt her native country being an Egyptian, and the Lord met her in order to correct her and to instruct her not to escape but to go back to her mistress. **Human when he is a stranger in a certain land when he or she exposed to pressure, the first respond will be to go back to his native land, because there he has his family to support him forgetting that God is there and He can support him in whatever struggle to pass through. Whenever place you are trust God that He will sustain you and protect you.**

***“8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.” (Genesis 16:8 KJV)*** ***“And he said, Hagar”;*** here the angel of the Lord called her by her name. **God shall call you by your name and confront you with your situation because he is concerned about you.** ***“And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid”;*** here the angel of the Lord told her who was she for Sarai, being a maid to her, reminding her that she need to respect and submit to Sarai and know her limit with her. **You need to know your limit in your relationship with the people around you; your boss, your**

supervisor, your parents, your husband, your wife, your elder brother, your pastor, and the rest to follow.

***“whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go?”***: The Lord wanted to hear from her mouth how she sees the situation that she was passing through, if she was fully oriented of what was taking place around her, and if she was fully aware of her sins or no. ***“And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai”***; she confessed that she was running away from her mistress Sarai and that was a confession that she admitted that she was a maid. The meaning of master or mistress is a man for master and a woman for mistress in the position of authority or control.

***“9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.” (Genesis 16:9 KJV)*** Here the Lord clearly spoke to her to return to Sarai being her mistress and to submit to her. The teaching in the New Testament teaches servants to submit to their masters and to do good in service under their supervision. **The following Scriptures teach you to humble down and submit to your boss and to those who have authority over you in your work place:** ***“5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8 KJV)*** In verse 5 Apostle Paul recommended for the servants to obey their masters with fear and trembling as if they are obeying Christ. In verse 6 teaches to serve well not only when their masters eyes on them just to please men, but to do the work diligently as servant of Christ, and in serving you are doing the will of God, then you need to do it and serve with all your heart because according to verse 7 you are serving the Lord and not men. Knowing according to verse 8 that whatever good you do you will receive the same from the Lord, whether you are servants or not. **So here all of us is under Christ and we are His servants so whatever we do we are doing the work for Christ, therefore we need to do that well so He will reward us.** ***“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:22-25 KJV)*** Apostle Paul in verse 22 teaches that servants need to obey their masters, and they need to serve them well, not only when their eyes on them, as some they do; in front of their boss they work very nice to receive his favor, but at his absence they don't care about the quantity and quality of the work, such people or workers are men pleasers and they are not fearing God. To fear God is to serve well because you are aware that God is watching you. Therefore according to verse 23 then whatever you do then do it to the Lord, it mean you need to do your best, because according to verse 24 with such kind of good service you are serving Christ and you will receive an inheritance in Heaven from the Lord. But if you do wrong and give no good service, according to verse 25 you will receive for the wrong that you are doing, whoever you are because in the Lord there is no favoritism.

***“10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.” (Genesis 16:10 KJV)*** After the Lord dealt with her sin toward her mistress and addressed her of what she needed to do, here the Lord started to tell

her about His promises to bless her and to bless her descendents, for that is her right as human from God as she is willing to obey God. Being a servant she was under Sarah her mistress, but being a human, she was blessed by the Lord, and her children will be blessed and multiplied by the Lord.

***“11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.” (Genesis 16:11 KJV)*** The Lord informed her in that visitation of Him toward her that she was pregnant with a boy and she shall be the one to call him Ishmael, and the meaning of Ishmael is **‘God hears’**, because God heard the affliction of Hagar and what she suffered. Hagar was a servant, under the work of a mistress and then she was put into troubles and took the rule of second wife and that put her in another trouble because now she needed to care for her child alone without a father, for Abram has a wife who still alive the time of the pregnancy and delivery of Hagar.

***“12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.” (Genesis 16:12 KJV)*** The Lord described to her the character of her son and how he will be wild. Ishmael being sent away by his father and then after being in the wilderness, living a hard life, surviving on hunting as we read here: ***“20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.” (Genesis 21:20 KJV)*** contributed much to his aggressive character, thus he was in attitude a wild man, and got hostility against others and in respond others were against him.

***“13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?” (Genesis 16:13 KJV)*** Here Hagar responded to the goodness of God in her life as He appeared to her in her distress and came to comfort her and to help her in her trouble. She called his name, ***“Thou God seest me”***, because He saw her, and she saw God as she said, ***“Have I also here looked after him that seeth me”***. Hagar being a single mother while she was pregnant met Christ who revealed Himself and His love to her. **Even for you now; as you are passing in a trial and difficult time, God still there to help you and to lead you out from your trouble. God will correct you, will lead you of what to do, will provide for you your needs and will comfort you until you come out from the trial that you are passing through.**

***“14 Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.” (Genesis 16:14 KJV)*** Beerlahairoi is the same fountain that we read in verse 7 at the border of Egypt, were God met Hagar, and the meaning Beerlahairoi which is the name of the fountain called by Hagar and others which means **‘the well of Him that lives and sees me’**. That was the first encounter of Hagar with the Lord and He met her exactly at the time of her crisis. **God loves the single mothers and He meets them at the time after they fall in the sin of adultery that they are being most of the time victim to it. Jesus comes to them in order to show them His love and in order to help them to make a relationship with Him as we can see here with Hagar how He came to her and revealed Himself to her as Jesus promised, “28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV)**



\* In the same way, we as church should take the same initiative to help the single mothers and reach them at the time of their crisis, and comfort them and set them at the right way of life that they need to go through. \* In the same way, we as church, the body of Christ, should take the same initiative not only to help the single mothers, but we need to reach out others and help them in their crisis and comfort them and set them at the right way of life that they need to go through.

***“15 And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.” (Genesis 16:15 KJV)*** Notice here that Hagar supposed she returned to her mistress to be back as a slave and not as a second wife to Abram. But Abram was not aware that God had sent Hagar back not to him but to Sarai her mistress. Sure he heard the story of Hagar how she met the Lord and that she was pregnant with a boy and she was instructed to call him Ishmael, and he was not yet aware, that he needed to care for his first wife and not Hagar and her child. The faith and the deeds of Abram here were not yet to the standard of God but it will be corrected later on as we will read in ***Genesis 21*** as he finally sent Hagar and Ishmael away. Some may say what he did was kindness and care for Hagar and her child. But this kindness and care should be given by Sarai being the mistress of Hagar and not by Abram. Also we need to understand that the LORD clearly instructed Hagar and not Abram to call the name of her son Ishmael.

***“16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.” (Genesis 16:16 KJV)*** Even at this age of Abram still needed correction and guidance from the Lord so his deeds will go along the faith that God wanted him to have. In the same way, we should be always open to teaching and correction.

***My dear and beloved:*** Jesus said, ***“28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28 KJV)***

Come now to the Lord express to Him your frustrations and what you are passing through of hardships and difficulties. Also be honest with God and try to realize your mistakes, and the reason that you are in trouble had come from your wrong actions that had come from your own understanding. Come to the Lord repent of your sins and your own wrong doings. Accept your mistakes and allow God to lead you to the right solution and accept correction so that you can be taken out from your troubles.

Let us come to the Lord in prayers, humbling ourselves and asking him to teach us more of his ways and to guide us with His will. Even with all the experiences that each and every one of us have still we need more of God and more of His ways in our lives. As you humble yourself and confess to Him your sins and all your mistakes, the Lord shall teach you, shall guide you, shall let you feel His love and care, shall have compassion on you, shall provide for you, and shall heal you and restore you and take you out from the pit and the trap that you are in and set you on a safe way and on a stable ground. Let us pray . . .

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that opened my eyes on the truth and taught me clearly the importance of doing your will. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the disciplined that I received in this message.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your own understanding. Renounce your pride and arrogance. Repent of the sin of adultery, breaking the sabbath, lack of tithing, having bad attitude with your boss, non reading your Bible properly and the lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your sins of being non teachable, delay in obedience and being stubborn. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to do and go along the correction that I received from you. Lord I commit myself to trust you and your Word and not to lean on my own understanding. Lord I am coming to you, Lord I am burdened, and I ask you to give me rest. Lord I cry out to you to take me out of this problem \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to start to serve you and do the work of yours that you had prepared for me to do.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who returned to you and willing to correct their mistakes and start to live for you and doing your will. Lord be with them and take them out from their troubles, and guide them step by step so they will be restored fully to the good plans that you have for them and they will continue to serve you.

Lord lead us as your church to continue to teach the people about your will, in giving them and declaring to them the good plans that you have for them in their lives. Lord help us to continue to deal with the issue of unlawful marriages and to continue our teaching and support to the single parents. Lord we trust you that you will continue to lead us with your Holy Spirit to do what is right and just. We trust you Lord that you will provide for us and will confirm and do all your promises and what you had said in your Word. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faith and Deeds Part 11. Genesis 16:1-16. Ephesians 2:10. Proverbs 3:5-8. Romans 7:2-3. Genesis 25:17-18. 1 Samuel 15:7. Ephesians 6:5-8. Colossians 3:22-25. Genesis 21:20. Matthew 11:28-30.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God  
United Arab Emirates  
[www.churchofgoduae.com](http://www.churchofgoduae.com)  
Email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com)  
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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[thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).

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[thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).