

**FAITH-FILLED LIVING
IN FEAR-FILLED TIMES**

What can we learn about God through His interaction with Rebekah and her family.

- God *REWARDS* us when we act in *FAITH*
- God leaves us to face some of the *CONSEQUENCES* when we act in *FEAR*

GOD REWARDS FAITH-FILLED CHOICES...

- Abraham sends his servant by faith (Godly wife)
- Servant prays and trust God for the outcome (success)
- Rebekah trusts God and goes with the stranger (husband)
- Isaac prays for a child (19 years later gets 2)
- Rebekah goes to God with her concerns about her pregnancy (God gives her understanding)

GOD ALLOWS CONSEQUENCES TO FEAR-FILLED CHOISES...

- Favoritism (roots; division; pain)
- Take control and God lets us
- Produces turmoil and loss of inner peace (bondage)
- Deception (personal loss, both sons; marr conflict)
- Damage is done to people we love the most (conflict; anxiety)
- Reinforcement of family sin pattern (Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob;)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FAITH TO FEAR?

- Pain and disappointment (home/marriage conflict; Esau married; life is disappointing)
- Godly desires became "goals" (marriage, children, job, provision; leads weariness/frustration)
- Length of time without answers (not time and way we want)
- Forget God's faithfulness and move from "Thanksgiving" to "Grumbling" (negative interpretation)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH?

1. **Identify our Fears and Anxieties**
(Rebekah; denial; manipulate , control, fix; bondage)

*"God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control."
(2Tim 1:7)*

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH?

2. *Own it and stay in the light* (courage)

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH?

3. *Walk in simple obedience* (failure/shame)

“Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” (Phil 4:6-7 Message)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH?

4. *Let go of Control* (surrender and trust; letting go)

“Jesus offers Himself as God's doorway into the life that is truly life,” not just to give us a fire escape from hell. He can teach us and enable us to fly right side up.” (Willard “THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH?

Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying, "God has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me?" Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? God doesn't come and go. God lasts. He's the Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he knows everything, inside and out. He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts. For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait (put their hope) upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. (Isaiah 40:27-31)
