

“MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY”

Presents

Strength O Lord!

Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV)

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:11 (NIV)

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

Sarah was the wife of Abraham – a couple who was promised a child. Sarah conceived at 89yrs old and gave birth to the promised son at 90years old. Please read more about them from the book of Genesis.

1) This scripture presents the prerequisite for conception and birth - Faith

Faith precedes conception, conception precedes delivery.

- a) Faith will intercept (stop, prevent) abortion – of ideas, babies, etc.**
- b) Faith will intercept (stop, prevent) miscarriage – of ideas, babies, etc.**

Abortion and miscarriage both denote termination of pregnancy. The difference is that abortion speaks of induced or spontaneous termination of pregnancy. Miscarriage speaks of an accidental termination of pregnancy.

Regardless of the conception (child, business idea, professional idea, marketplace idea, your family idea, your community idea, etc), faith is needed, otherwise, miscarriage and/or abortion are inevitable.

2) By “**Faith**”

- ✓ Faith synonyms – believe, confidence, reality, assurance, conviction, substance, etc.
- ✓ Faith is the word of God.
- ✓ In simple terms, Faith is believing/having confidence in the word of God until you see results.
- ✓ Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) defines faith for us. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.
- ✓ It is never “faith” until there is “a word”. Therefore, “the word of God” is what converts “hope” to “faith”/ “confidence”/ “believe”.

a) **Faith precedes strength therefore, Faith will energizes.**

If at this point you have already conceived and it is not faith based, consider revisiting what you conceived. Why will God supply you the strength to do wrong? Why will God sponsor ideas contrary to the kingdom?

3) **Evidence (activation) of Sarah’s faith**

Genesis 18:9-10, 14 (NKJV)

““Where is Sarah, your wife?” the visitors asked. “She’s inside the tent,” Abraham replied. Then one of them said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!” Sarah was **listening** to this conversation from the tent”.

“Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

- ✓ Sarah’s faith was evident from the word, so should yours. Be able to articulate when and how your faith was received.

- ✓ Sarah's faith was specific to her situation. There is faith for every situation. Avoid generalization. It helps you praise better.

Today, we have come to ask God for strength to carry us through 2019. That strength can only come by faith and that is why we are looking at a case point – “Sarah”. An example of one who received “strength”, “power”, “enablement” etc. to succeed. Amen.

4) The odds against Sarah

- ✓ Age – she was promised a child at 89years of age.

So, she required strength. Her strength did not come just because she hoped. She had faith! Amen.

5) What are the odds against your strength today?

Sarah needed strength to “conceive” a child. What do you need strength for? I will name a few areas in which we need strength just so that we can pray. However, I want you to keep this word, mull over it and have faith in the area of strength of your choice.

- ✓ You need spiritual strength – the enablement to pray, study the word and live the kingdom lifestyle uncompromisingly. How is your prayer life and your word life? How is your fasting life? You need strength.
- ✓ You need moral strength – the enablement to say “No” and the ability to say “Yes” when necessary. Everything should not pass in your presence or environment. Are you easily influenced by peer pressure?
- ✓ You need psychological strength –the enablement to consistently educate your mind and the enablement to be stable emotionally. How knowledgeable are you in your field? Are you solution oriented or problem focused?
- ✓ You need social strength – the enablement to become an impactful community citizen. Is your community benefiting from you?
- ✓ You need physical strength – the enablement to remain “fit”. Is your health compromised because of diminishing physical strength?

- ✓ You need financial strength – the enablement to budget, plan your expenses and refuse to financially indulge yourself.

Odds

- ✓ Multiple failed attempts
- ✓ Viewing impossibilities (surrounded by multiple impossibilities)
- ✓ The wrong voices and influence
- ✓ Looking down on yourself
- ✓ Fear of failure
- ✓ Fear of being a pioneer (what will people say?)
- ✓ Fear of rejection
- ✓ Overpowered by timidity?

Family, be encouraged - “And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.”

Before today, the odds against you were in the present but because light has come, I declare and decree all the odds against you a thing of the past. Amen.

- ✓ Your odds are behind you from this day forward if only you will have faith in God.
- ✓ Receive strength in place of weakness
- ✓ Receive moral strength today
- ✓ Receive physical strength today
- ✓ Receive psychological strength today
- ✓ Receive social strength today
- ✓ Receive financial strength today
- ✓ Receive endurance, grit, fortitude, energy, resilience, vitality, force, staying power.
- ✓ Receive bravery in place of cowardice and timidity

- ✓ Receive love in place of fear
- ✓ Receive self-discipline in place of self-indulgence
- ✓ Receive diligence in place of negligence
- ✓ Receive acceleration in place of procrastination
- ✓ Receive punctuality in place of tardiness
- ✓ Receive speed in place of delay
- ✓ Receive grace to run this race with endurance and grace to lay aside every weight
- ✓ You will complete your race
- ✓ You will accomplish this year
- ✓ Your testimony this year will be greater than last year

In Jesus name. Amen.

I pronounce the blessing (the empowerment to be) over you. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He lift His countenance over you and give you peace. Go in the blessing, grace, peace and strength of God. Amen.

Compiled by TOMS - 01/18/2019