

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Is anything too hard for the Lord?... by Gareth

READ : GENESIS 18: 1-14

- The title and theme of this study is based on the challenging question in Genesis 18:14. What is your answer to it? For this will reveal the depth of faith that we have in the power of God. In these days many of God's people are discouraged, despondent and filled with doubt. This ought not to be, for discouragement always comes from the Devil, despondency paralyses us for useful service and doubt dishonours the Lord.
- The circumstances in which the question is asked, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Is brought before us in *Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-5; 15-19; 18:1-14; 21:1-8*. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 – She was beyond child bearing years *Genesis 18:11*. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for Sarah to bear a child. Both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the idea that they would have a son. Abraham laughed (*Genesis 17:17*), Sarah laughed (*Genesis 18:12*) – and then it was that the Lord Himself said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord". Well, is anything.....?
- Let us consider the following:
- **1. There is no PROMISE too hard for the Lord to fulfil.**
- In the Bible there are hundreds perhaps thousands of promises. These promises are yes and amen to the child of God to those in Christ (*2 Corinthians 1:20*); "For all the promises of God in him are yea and in Him Amen unto the glory of God by us" (towards us) Peter tells us that these promises are "exceedingly great and precious promises" (*2 Peter 1:4*) These promises are all absolutely sure – *Numbers 23:19*. Every promise that God has ever made will be fulfilled, and there is a promise to meet your very need. Three examples of "hard things" that God promised and accomplished.
- He promised that the walls of Jericho would fall, but that Rahab's dwelling on the wall and her family would be spared. This was indeed a hard thing – read *Joshua 2:1-24; 6:1-25*.
He promised to feed Elijah by ravens at Cherith and by a widow at Zarephath. This was a hard thing – read *1 Kings 17:2-16*.
- He promised that Mary would bring forth a son, though she was a virgin. This was a hard thing – read *Luke 1:26-38*.
- These are just a few of the promises that God made, so be encouraged that He's a promise keeper.
- **2. There is no PRAYER too hard for the Lord to answer.**
- One of the great prayer-promises in the Bible is *Jeremiah 33:3*. The Lord loves to answer hard prayers – *Matthew 17:20*;
- In every situation and circumstance of life He invites us to pray, and He promises to answer our prayers.

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Week 30

- What a hard thing it was, humanly speaking, to give Abraham and Sarah a child! Biologically it was impossible, yet their prayer was answered.
- Read *Genesis 24:1-67*. How hard it was, humanly speaking, for Abraham's servant Eliezer to find just the right bride for Isaac, yet God answered prayer by leading Eliezer to choose Rebekah!
- Read *1 Kings 18:17-41*. How hard it was, humanly speaking, for fire to fall upon the altar, but it was not too hard for the Lord, and Elijah's prayer was abundantly answered!

3. There is no PROBLEM too hard for the Lord to solve.

Is it possible that you have a problem which you have been trying to solve by yourself? – and you have failed! Ask the Lord to solve it for you. He can and He will perform a miracle for you, if it is for His glory to do so. He is a miracle-working God, and nothing is too hard for Him. See how His power was manifest in granting solutions to His people's problems.

- He enabled the children of Israel to pass through the Red Sea unharmed and on dry land – *Exodus 14:13-31*.
 - He solved the problem of the bitter water at Marah – *Exodus 15:23-26*.
 - He gave them water out of the rock – *Exodus 17:5-7*.
 - He turned the water into wine – *John 2:1-11*.
 - He stilled the storm – *Mark 4:35-41*.
 - He fed five thousand – *Matthew 14:15-21*.
 - He raised the dead – *John 11:38-46*.
- What He did during bible times He can do today! Have we so soon forgotten the miracles that God has performed in our very own lives?

4. There is no PLACE too hard for the Lord to revive.

- We can so quickly get discouraged in our work for the Lord. God's people are frequently living in a state of discouragement, but why should we accept this defeatist attitude when our God is the God of the impossible? Look up *Isaiah 43:19* – '*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*'?

5. There is no PERSON too hard for the Lord to save.

- Thank God, *Hebrews 7:25* is still true – yet we frequently doubt God's ability to save people! We look upon certain cases as hard!
 - The woman who was a sinner was wonderfully saved by the Lord Jesus – *Luke 7:36-50*.
 - A condemned criminal was gloriously converted in his dying hour – *Luke 23:39-43*.
 - Saul the persecutor was humbled to the dust by the sight of the risen Lord – *Acts 9:1-7*.
 - A jailer and his family were suddenly converted – *Acts 16:25-34*.
 - Is anything too hard for the Lord? What is your answer?