

Journey of Faith

(Part 7 – Because God is Bigger than Every Obstacle!)

Text: Genesis 18:1-15

Main Idea: Faith looks at every obstacle in life as an opportunity for God to do the impossible!

1. **The Designer of Obstacles:** The Sovereign God of the Universe is our _____ who orchestrates trials in our lives! (v. 1-8)
2. **The Purpose of Obstacles:** Sometimes God leads His people down paths of despair in order to bring us to the _____ of our strength. (v. 9-11)
3. **The Temptation in the Midst of Obstacles:** In our despair we often _____ God, looking at life from only a human perspective. (v. 12)
4. **The Reprimand for Disbelief:** God's Word _____ our disbelief so that we see things from God's perspective. (13-15)
 - God _____ & sees our heart, thoughts & motives.
 - God will hold us all _____ for our attitude & actions.
 - God's Word confronts us & sometimes it _____!
 - We must listen to God's Word & _____ being conformed to His will!
5. **Trust through Every Obstacle:** God is _____ to do the impossible, but may _____ do it having a different plan for your good and His glory! (Gen 50:19)

Application Questions (Family Devotions):

1. Abraham is said to be the *friend* of God. And when we are "in Christ" we are also the friends of God. How are we to view the difficulties in our lives? How did Sarah view her barrenness in 16:2? If the sovereign God is our friend why does he allow obstacles and trials to come into our lives? What difficulties are currently in your life that you are going to have to "trust" your heavenly friend?
2. We learned from Sarah, that God hears and sees not only our words and actions, but also knows our motives. How was Sarah's response (behind tent walls) a lack of faith? Why was Sarah afraid when the angel of the Lord questioned her? What obstacle in your life has caused you to doubt God & His goodness & plan for your life?
3. Are there any obstacles in your life, which have caused you to be bitter toward God? Put yourself in Sarah's shoes. After many years of praying and not receiving there seems to be bitterness in her heart toward God. What must you do to prevent becoming bitter at God in your life when things don't turn out the way you want them to?
4. Notice that God actually confronts Sarah! How do you view God's confrontation, as unkindness or His grace? Are you sensitive to God's confrontation in His Word? As a follower of Christ, how does the Word of God fit into your daily life? Do you listen for God's confrontation & correction?
5. Is it possible to have a view of God that is too big? Knowing that God is able to do the impossible, do you ever put too high expectations on God? Do you expect God to do the impossible in our every day lives at your beckon command? How do you have a balanced view of God when He chooses **NOT** to "come through" for you after you have prayed for possibly years, asking Him for a specific request?