

Genesis Lesson 28

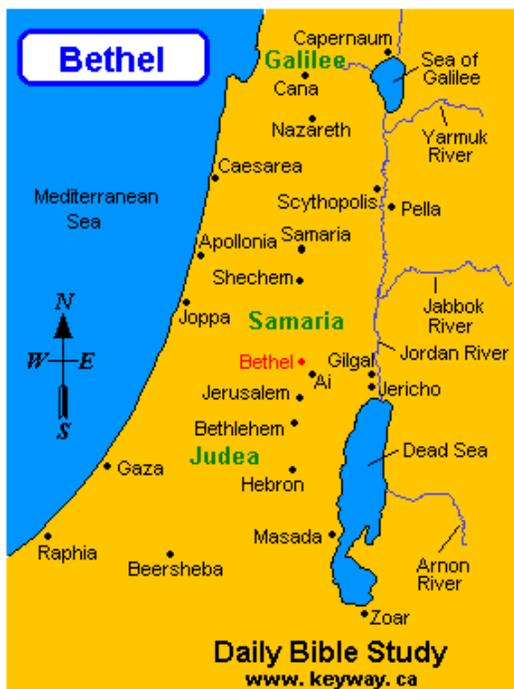
Trust God
that He is still
in control and
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good...

Trust our
emotions
and fall
apart...

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."

And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.



9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land,

Because followers of Jesus are not promised a life of comfort and ease.

Trust God that He is still in control and He will use this for good...

Trust our emotions and fall apart...

and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

My instructor told me to put the plane into a steep and extended dive. I was totally unprepared for what was about to happen.

After a brief time the engine stalled, and the plane began to plunge out-of-control. It soon became evident that the instructor was not going to help me at all.

After a few seconds, which seemed like eternity, my mind began to function again. I quickly corrected the situation.

Immediately I turned to the instructor and began to vent my fearful frustrations on him.

He very calmly said to me, "There is no position you can get this airplane into that I cannot get you out of.

If you want to learn to fly, go up there and do it again."

At that moment God seemed to be saying to me,

"Remember this. As you serve Me, there is no situation you can get yourself into that I cannot get you out of. If you trust me, you will be all right."

It takes life feeling out of control to stop and say - wait - I think God can handle this.

11 And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.

12 Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.

13 Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

If you are new to this "trusting God" thing - sometimes you fail the test.

Trusting God does NOT mean He is my Genie in a bottle.

Surrender

To the extent we know God - that will determine how much we trust Him.

He started looking at his situation from a human perspective - a natural perspective.

14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.

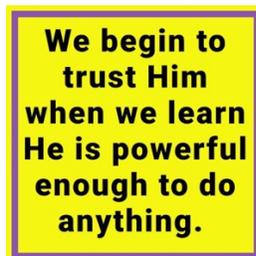
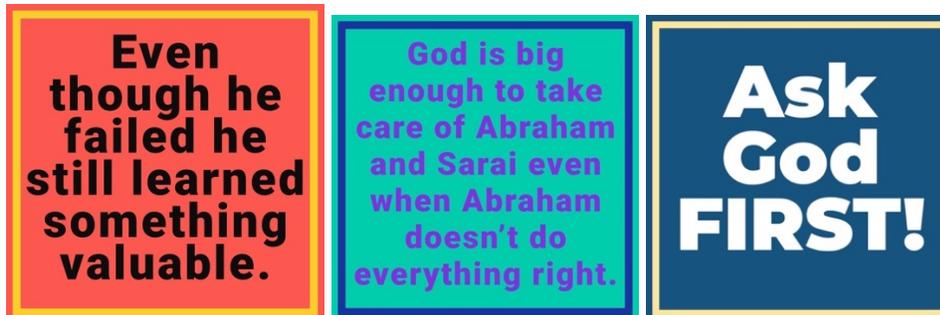
15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

He tried to handle a difficult situation without consulting or trusting God.

He will step in and rescue you if He needs to.

17 But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.



When Communist forces invaded Vietnam in the 1950s, Hien Pham, like many Vietnamese Christians, was arrested and jailed for his beliefs.

After his release from prison, Pham made plans to escape Vietnam.

He secretly began building a boat. Fifty-three fellow Vietnamese made plans to escape with him.

One day, four Vietcong soldiers came to Pham's house and confronted him.

They heard he was planning an escape. Was it true?

Of course, Hien Pham lied to them.

If he had told the truth, the Vietcong might have killed him and arrested the other fifty-three participants.

But after the soldiers left, Pham felt uneasy. Had God really wanted him to lie? Didn't he trust that God would provide for him under any circumstances?

Even though it made no logical sense, Pham believed that God wanted him to tell the truth, even at the risk of his own life. So Pham resolved that if the Vietcong returned, he would confess his escape plans. Pham finished building his boat, and his friends made the final plans for their daring escape.

To their horror, the Vietcong soldiers returned and demanded to know if the escape rumors were true. Hoping against hope, Pham confessed his plans to escape. Imagine Pham's surprise when the soldiers replied, "Take us with you!"

That evening, Pham, his fifty-three friends, and four Vietcong soldiers made a daring escape under cover of night on a homemade boat.

But wait, that's not the end of the story! They sailed straight into a violent storm. Pham reports that they surely would have been lost, if not for the expert sailing skills of""you guessed it""the four Vietcong soldiers.

The escapees landed safely in Thailand. Eventually, Pham emigrated to the United States, where he made a new life for himself.
