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NEW BEGINNINGS WITH GREAT ENDINGS

Genesis 15-17

Proverbs 24:16-17, 16 for though the **righteous fall seven times**, they **rise again**, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. 17Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice.

* Leaning on the right people and learning right principles turns our stumbling into success!

1 Corinthians 13:7-8, 7 It (Love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails . . .

1 Corinthians 13

Galatians 3:9 (TLB), . . . And so it is: all who trust in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received.

New Beginnings with Great Endings

1. Trusting God wins over troubling emotion**.**

Genesis 15:1-4, 1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram.  I am your shield, your very great reward. 2But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” 4Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

Genesis 14:17-24, 15:1-4

Genesis 15:5-6, 5 He (God) took him (Abram) outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspringbe.” 6Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:8-9, 8 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” 9So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

1. Reliance upon God wins over self-reliance**.**

Genesis 16:1-2, 1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2so she said to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave**;** perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said**.**

* *Ishmael -* meaning God will hear us amidst this hardship

1 Corinthians 10:13; Genesis 16:12

Psalm 91:14-16, 14 “Because heloves me**,”** says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.15He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

1. Faithfulness to God must win overweakness.

Genesis 17:1-1-5, 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” 3Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham,for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:15-16, 15 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

New beginnings are empowered by better perspective.

Great ending are empowered by better choices.

Questions:

1. What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
2. What will you do because of it?
3. How can we pray for you?

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