

▼ **Don't Waste The Relationship!**

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▼ **The Promise**

- Abraham receives the promise of Isaac - Genesis 18:1-15
- This is a high point in his life. This is the kind of promise that modern Christians eagerly seek and over which they greatly rejoice: "God gave me a promise!"

▼ **The Failure**

- Abraham passes Sarah off as (merely) his sister - Genesis 20
- ▼ Almost immediately after receiving such an amazing promise Abraham fails:
 - He assumes that there is no fear of God among Abimelech and his people.
- ▼ He repeats his custom of asking Sarah to identify herself as (merely) his sister.
 - This results in Sarah being brought into Abimelech's household.
 - This potentially jeopardizes God's promise to Abraham of a son through Sarah.
 - God warns Abimelech that Sarah is Abraham's wife and that he is as good as dead if he doesn't return her.
 - God had stopped all the women in Abimelech's household from conceiving.
 - Abimelech behaves with more integrity than Abraham.
 - God requires Abimelech to submit to being prayed for by Abraham for the healing of his household.

▼ **The God we serve**

- ▼ The Bible, particularly the Old Testament, doesn't always comment on the morality of the actions that it records.
 - God wants us to think these things through for ourselves.
- ▼ The Old Testament stories were recorded:
 - NOT primarily to tell us what the "rules" are.

- Primarily to tell us about the God who intervenes in human history.
- ▼ God doesn't give up on us when we fail.
 - All the biblical characters that God used experienced failure.
 - Why waste a relationship with a God like this on a mundane, safe life?
 - Why not risk discovering God's will and letting him do big things through us?
- ▼ **Jesus is the source of our life**
 - ▼ Worship song:
 - (1st stanza): "I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live . . ." - Galatians 2:20
 - (2nd stanza): "If ye then be risen with Christ . . ." - Colossians 3:1-4
 - We have a source of life that Abraham didn't.
 - Having "eternal life" means that the life of the age to come enters the present age through Jesus and flows into us. This is one of the benefits of following Jesus.
 - We have the privilege of demonstrating what it looks like with God is King by living today the way we will live when the Kingdom goes into full effect.
 - Why waste this privilege by living a mundane life?