

REFINED IMMERSION IN THE PROPHETIC WORD

Series: Genesis – The Beginning

Message 28

Sarah and Hagar: Two Covenants

Bible Reading: Galatians 4:21-31



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MONDAY

1. Because of the pressure to produce the descendant promised by God, Sarai suggested that Abram have a child with her servant Hagar. This episode reveals the result of offering what one has according to one's natural capacity—Hagar was the most Sarai could offer of herself. Therefore, in Genesis 16 we do not find the intervention or explicit presence of God (Gen 16:1-4a).
2. Abraham also offered what he still possessed in his natural strength: the power of procreation. For this reason, God remained absent for thirteen years. God's absence represents the lack of access to divine speaking. There is no record of Abraham's spiritual life during the period he remained without the word of the Lord. Therefore, when we do not live according to God's word, our days are not numbered before Him (Genesis 16:16; 17:1; Psalm 90:12).
3. Let us be those who long to hear the word of the Lord. When we hear it, we must do so diligently: believing in His word and obeying it. When we adopt this posture, God reveals Himself to us as the Almighty, the One who can accomplish all things, since we walk in His presence (Genesis 17:1).
4. "The Lord Himself recognized Moses as faithful in His whole house (Numbers 12:7). This is what He expects from each of us [...] What does it mean to be faithful in the house of the Lord? It means managing the house of the Lord well, according to His will. God needs servants who are faithful in His work. It is useless for a person to be faithful if they don't do anything. You are faithful when you accomplish what the Lord wants to do. Being faithful is not something theoretical, but it is practicing and fulfilling God's will" (Daily Food, book 3, week 2, Monday, pp. 22-23).

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TUESDAY

1. We need to learn to break free from the great influence that the tree of knowledge of good and evil exerts on humanity. Everything we do in our capacity and skill originates from this tree. When Eve was deceived, the serpent told her that on the day they ate the fruit of the tree, she and Adam would be like God, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5; 2:16-17).
2. Man has become a slave to sin. He cannot do the good he desires, but he does the evil he does not want to do. Apparently, this only leads to the evil side, but it also applies to the good side. For the tree of the knowledge of good and evil has two aspects. Good and evil are part of the same tree, which results in death (Romans 7:19-24).
3. Abraham had two sons, one by his wife's slave and the other by his wife, who was free. The son of the slave woman was born according to Abraham's fleshly skills. But the son of the free woman was born through the promise, from an impossible situation, since Sarah was barren and could not have children. God, in His infinite capacity and power, caused Sarah to have a son (Galatians 4:22-23).
4. "The Lord seeks people like our teenagers: simple, humble, and contrite in spirit. They do not see themselves as great or important. Adults often consider themselves self-sufficient, important, or great Bible scholars, but teenagers do not think this way; they approach God with simplicity and love the word sincerely. It is in this kind of heart that God desires to dwell, this is the house that God wants for Himself (Psalm 110:3; Isaiah 66:1-2)" (Daily Food, book 3, week 2, Tuesday, p. 25).

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WEDNESDAY

1. The process of God's salvation for us is the new covenant. Christ died on the cross, and we were crucified with Him. With Him that which enslaved us died: our old self. The cross is liberation for us! It is not something ugly or sad, but it is the proclamation of our freedom (Romans 6:6; Luke 22:19-20).
2. With the death of the old man, we are set free! The cross is liberation. As long as we do not rid ourselves of the old man in service to the Lord, we will always desire to help God with our own skills. It is only possible to be freed by embracing the reality of the cross of Christ, living in resurrection, in newness of life, fully freed from the old man (Galatians 1:4).
3. If righteousness came through the skill to obey the law, it would not have been necessary for Christ to come. The old man thinks he can justify himself by doing good, that is, that by doing good he can please God. But We are still under the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We need to free ourselves and live under the other tree: the tree of life (Galatians 2:21).
4. "For those who love the coming of the Lord, when He returns, there will be the wedding feast of the Lamb. We need to be prepared for this day, being obedient and practicing the tools He has given us in the church. When that day arrives, we will be clothed in fine linen, bright and pure. What linen is this? The very embroidered garment: ' For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints ' (Revelation 19:8b)" (Daily Food, book 3, week 2, Wednesday, p. 27).

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THURSDAY

1. We have already been freed from the old man with all his ordinances, but there was a group of people in the church in Jerusalem who wanted to return to the practice of the law and be enslaved. Again, we are relying on weak and poor elementary principles, reverting to the capabilities of the flesh. Today we no longer depend on the capabilities of the flesh to do God's will. We are in the age of grace and depend on God's speaking (Galatians 4:9).
2. The movement to bring the church back to the practice of the law arose and gained strength after the great persecution following the death of Stephen, among the circumcised ones in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1; 11:2-3; 15:1, 5).
3. When the church depends on the word that God speaks through the apostles, there is fellowship. As we practice today, God speaks, and we have fellowship in the word of God. We have teams that produce immersion, the war cry, and this helps create the energizing chamber. Thus, the church gains wings and flies! When the spirit has freedom, the church experiences wonders and signs. It is not limited to human capacity (Acts 2:42-47).
4. "Thank God, we live in days of great joy, for we have the word of God, His presence and His throne, where the tree of life is and the river of the water of life flows, whose channels make glad the city of God. In Romans 14, we read: ' For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit ' (v. 17)" (Daily Food, book 3, week 2, Thursday, p. 29).

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FRIDAY

1. In Acts 21, everyone in the church in Jerusalem became zealous for the law. They had strayed from grace and returned to depending on their own efforts. Upon returning to the practice of the law, some, through the efforts of the flesh, managed to practice it better than others. And thus, a hierarchy arises. God does not want the efforts of the flesh. He wants to free us from the realm of the knowledge of good and evil, from the realm of the flesh. (Acts 21:17-20).
2. There is a truth of the gospel: Christ died for us to free us from sin and the law. In light of this truth, Paul was very concerned about the situation of the believers, because the church was leaving the realm of grace and returning to the practice of the law, that is, using the efforts of the flesh to help God. The church in Jerusalem rejected the apostles' teaching to the point that Peter no longer remained there, and the same happened with John (Galatians 2:14).
3. Let us not depart from grace. We are enjoying the grace of Christ, and we are not going to another gospel. Those of the circumcision want to pervert the gospel of Christ. However, man is justified by faith in Christ Jesus, not by works of the law. By the works of the law, some are more capable than others, but through faith we are all equal (Galatians 1:6-9; 2:15-17, 19-20).
4. "Today we are being tested as by fire, so that, once the value of our faith is confirmed, we may be approved, gaining praise before God (1 Peter 1:7). Our natural skill cannot build up the church; everything must pass through approval. Christ is the One who tests and approves us. He is qualified to measure us" (Daily Bread, book 3, week 2, Friday, p. 32).

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SATURDAY

1. Man receives the Spirit by the hearing of faith through the work of Christ on the cross. All the power that God has to perform the work, comes from the Spirit. And, by the practice of the law, no man can receive it. If there is no Spirit, there is no execution of the Lord's work, because the work of God is performed in a supernatural way (Galatians 3:1-5).
2. God told Abraham that Ishmael would be like a wild donkey, meaning that Abraham, with his capacity, created a problem for all his descendants (Genesis 16:12). Through the flesh We create problems for ourselves. Then God said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless." God is powerful to perform miracles through man's faith (Genesis 17:1).
3. In the twenty centuries of church history, very few have understood what God wants. Therefore, little of the Lord's will has been accomplished. But Now God needs to accomplish His will through the church. If the Lord cannot make us understand the truth of the gospel, the way He works, He will not complete His purpose. Revelation is being given to us because He is counting on us (Psalm 14:1-3; Galatians 2:5, 14).
4. "How many people on the streets know the meaning of life? Most are thirsty, trying to quench their thirst with what the world offers. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that whoever drinks from the well will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water He gives will never thirst again; this water will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life (John 4:14)" (Daily Bread, book 3, week 2, Saturday, p. 34).

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SUNDAY

1. We Gentiles were not a people before, but now we are God's people. Before, we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy. Thanks be to the Lord; we are truly His people. He sought out those from every tribe, language, people, and nation, and have made them a kingdom and priests. We will reign on the Earth; this is the promise God gave to Abraham (1 Peter 2:10; Revelation 5:9-10).
2. Those who want to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Paul was persecuted by those of the circumcision because he preached grace, remaining faithful to the truth of the gospel of Christ. We are not here to spare ourselves, but we want to do God's will. Even in the face of death, we do not love our own lives. And yet, the battle is not ours, but the Lord's (Galatians 4:29; 2 Timothy 3:12; Galatians 1:23; 6:12).
3. The reason to boast is not in our skill, deeds, and achievements, but it is the cross of Christ. The cross freed us from our old self. And, in the new self, there are conditions for the Lord to act. It is not we, but the grace of God with us; This should be our "motto" from now on. (Galatians 5:11; 6:13; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10)!
4. "In Psalm 46 we read: ' There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God ' (v. 4a). The word "streams" can be translated as "channels." There is a river whose channels make glad the city of God. We are those channels that make glad the city of God" (Daily Food, book 3, week 2, Sunday, p. 36).

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