

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**Genesis 21:8-21**

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# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. (Gen.21:8)**

- **Abraham continued to rejoice in the CHILD OF THE PROMISE.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Isaac had brought “laughter”. He was the “CHILD OF THE PROMISE”.**

**“His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.”**

**(Gal. 4:23)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." (Gen.21:9-10)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Isn't it amazing how Sarah had "asked" Abraham to take Hagar and have a child.**
- **Yet years later, here she is "asking" her husband to get rid of them.**
- **We can learn from this not to "get ahead of God" or we may end up in regret.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." (Gen.21:11-13)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Notice how God answers Abraham's distress with a promise.**
- **God answers the faithful person with a promise.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. (Gen.21:14)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **This is a picture of what is going to happen in Genesis 22 when Abraham will take Isaac early in the morning as well to be sacrificed.**
- **Abraham was a faithful man who went through very difficult times. Imagine, taking “two” sons away.**
- **Yet, God was glorified through Abraham. And Abraham was blessed!!**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. (Genesis 21:15-16)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Nothing can be more difficult then for a parent to have a child die.**
- **Here we see Hagar sobbing but “not asking God to help”.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." (Genesis 21:17-18)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **God hears the little child crying. And God was moved to act upon the child's behalf.**
- **God talks to Hagar and gives her instructions.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.  
(Genesis 21:19)**

# SPIRITUAL verses Carnal

- God “**opened her eyes**”.
- Hagar, even in this terrible time, was enveloped by some very precious hidden resources.

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **She didn't realize it, but God was there and He had just what they needed to help her.**
- **She was so overcome by her grief that she could not see the resources that were right there before her eyes.**
- **Have you ever been there?**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

**God had a plan in all of this. The pain and suffering was part of God's plan.**

- i) The “picture” we have here is that Ishmael represented the efforts of the flesh and he had to go, so the son of faith, Isaac, might obtain his rightful place.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **ii) And the efforts of our own flesh not trusting God (Ishmael) have to go so that the Life in the Spirit (Isaac) can have the rightful place in our life.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **iii) The same is true in your life and mine. God has a plan and sometimes it involves us walking through some hard places. He knows what He is doing. Until you walk through the valley, you cannot appreciate the mountain top. (see Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:17) (Psa. 37:23.)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Hagar didn't know it, but God had been there the whole time.**

**(Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20, Deut. 31:8; 1 Sam. 12:22; Isa. 41:10; 43:2.)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **God heard, was concerned about her problem, and spoke words of peace. God knows our problems (Job 23:10), God cares about our problems (Hebrews 4:15-16), and God can speak peace to your heart (John 14:27; Phil. 4:7)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **God may not make you a great nation, but He will take care of you (Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:19; Psa. 37:25)**
- **God opened her eyes and showed her what had been right in front of her all along!**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **We are blinded to His provisions by our problems. God can open our eyes and show us that He has everything we could ever need.**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **God has what you need, if you will come to Him, you can have that provision! The provision is “the miracles and power of our God”. He has more and can do more than you can imagine (Eph. 3:20)**

## **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- **Finally, let's go to Galatians 4:28-31:**

**“Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. (Galatians 4:28-31)**

# **SPIRITUAL verses Carnal**

- Let's stop walking in of the “carnal nature” that “enslaves us”.
- Let's walk in who we are as God's children as we trust in Him living His Life through us.....  
and be “FREE”.
- LET'S PRAY:

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