

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 20-21

William D. Watley, New Seasons Press, All Rights Reserved.

Verses 20: 1-16, Faith of Abraham, "Warts and All"

Ingredients of Failing Faith

Misjudgment of others (strengths and desires)

Misperception of our strengths and/or weaknesses

Fear

Doubt

Failing Faith is no respecter of either age or experience

God's preventive intercessions

Pride goes before a fall when it interferes with obedience

Half-truths are not acceptable to God

A gracious and generous spirit is not foolish but fruitful

Verses 21: 1-7, God is Faithful

We do not know reasons for delay, but we do know that God is faithful

Abraham's obedience to the command of circumcision---whatever it took to receive a blessing, it takes the same thing to preserve a blessing

Obedience is a disciplined lifestyle, not a temporary strategy or bargaining chip

Enjoy the blessing or miracle rather than complain about the timing or what we went through to receive it because all miracles and blessings come from the hand of a gracious God who does not require perfect faith

Verses 21: 8-20, Joy Spoilers

Many people do not know how to live with a blessing or a miracle

Some people resent others who are blessed to the point they cannot enjoy what they have
(The illusion of greener grass)

Some people become so resentful that they seek to hurt or bring down others

Blessed but hurtful people have issues that may not be visible

Some people do not even know why they resent others or they are too ashamed to admit the reasons for their resentment

When other people's insecurity or hidden issues become a problem to us we must remember five things:

Truth will stand

Their position of power is only temporary

God has the last word

We must pray so our own spirit will not be as petty and vindictive as theirs when we come into our own

In the divine scheme of things, every knock is a boost

Verses 21: 25-34, The Importance of a Truce

There are some people we will not be able to get along with, personally like or become close to
Not liking certain people does not mean they must be our enemies

We must learn to mark off territory and make a truce

Truces allow everyone to enjoy their territory and their blessings for many days to come until we
arrive at the place God wants to settle us.