

Charles Wesley UMC
At-home Devotion
June 11, 2020

“So Sarah laughed to herself...”
Genesis 18: 12a

Scripture:

Genesis 18: 1-15; 21: 1-7

Psalms 116: 1-2, 12-19

Romans 5: 1-8

Matthew 9: 35-10:8, 9-23

Sarah laughed! I think I would laugh too if God said I would conceive and bear a child in my 80s. Sarah's laughing may have been out of nervousness... disbelief... even humor. I have a tendency to laugh when I'm nervous. Sarah is chastised for her laughter because it was a laugh of doubt. Sarah was doubting God's power to do the unimaginable. I have heard many sermons criticizing Sarah for her doubtful laughter but I think it is important to remember that Sarah wasn't the only one laughing over the idea of geriatric parenthood.

“God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” Genesis 17: 15-17

Sarah and Abraham both underestimated the power of God. Both doubted God's promise (Genesis 16) or at least God's timetable in fulfilling the promise. “*Karios*” is God's time or the appointed time for God's purpose. “*Chronos*” is the Greek used for humankind's time... our time... how we manage or mark the minutes, hours, days, weeks, etc. Sarah and Abraham were impatient for “*karios*” and laughed at the reality that “*chronos*” time was winning over and against God.

We are impatient for “*karios*” right now. We are living in the timetable of a virus. One that is changing how we interact with one another. A virus that limits us. We are hungry for the “*chronos*” time when all this will be over and we can get back to “normal”. I'm sorry to say that “normal” is no more. When we are freed from the timetable of this virus, there will be a new normal. Sarah and Abraham discovered the “new normal” when God's time, “*karios*”, God's time of purpose was fulfilled in their lives. At the birth of Isaac, Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me everyone who hears will laugh with me.” (Genesis 21: 6) “*Karios*” time turned Sarah's nervous, doubtful laughter to laughter of joy, celebration and assurance of all of God's promises. *Karios* time will turn our doubtful, impatient, nervous anxiety of the timetable of the virus into laughter. We just have to “wait upon the Lord.”

Prayer:

Promise Keeper God,

Thank you for the promises you have made in my life. Help me to live my *chronos* time faithfully so that your *karios* time will bring such joy that all I can do is laugh and celebrate the fullness of your blessings. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Questions to ponder:

- Where have I doubted that God would fulfill promises in my life?
- How can I live *karios* time in the midst of *chronos* time?