
Genesis 16 Practical Applications

Chapter 16 has a lot of information that applies to us today. This chapter could be titled "When Women Wear the Pants". What we are about to read in this chapter still effects us today. We are going over the practical applications of the lessons from Chapter 16 and how they apply to us today. Because Abram gave in to Sarai way back then in that tent, the conflict between those two boys is still raging today.

1. **Don't take matters into your own hands.** Sarai decided God was taking too long so she stepped out of line and took matters into her own hands. That is not God's program. You must let God work through you. God doesn't need your help, just your faith and obedience and total surrender. God can get things done if you submit totally to him. If things fail, it's because it wasn't God; it was you.
2. **We should move ahead if only our motivations are through faith.** Abram and Sarai didn't move ahead with God. They took matters into their own hands.
3. **Be careful with things that satisfy the carnal appetites.** Stay away from these temptations as best you can because Satan uses these as a trap.
4. **We should hesitate to undertake any work when our primary reason is to relieve pressure rather than fulfill a principle.** Don't give in to kids, spouses, or any other people just to appease their nagging or so you don't have to hear it anymore. This is a poor reason to undertake any task.
5. **We should never work if our actions are against our God.** From the time you get up to the time you go to bed, engage your mind before you engage your mouth. What you say and how you say it matters. Be careful what method you use to do God's work.
6. **Faith is trusting in God no matter what the obstacles.** Even though Abram was getting old and still didn't have a child, he should've just waited on God and had faith, but he didn't. We must have patience when having faith in God. God will do things in His own time, not ours.
7. **God doesn't speak to Abram or Sarai; He speaks to Hagar.** God didn't speak to Abram again for 13 years. When we choose to act upon circumstances, God may choose to talk to use through circumstances only, very clearly and very painfully.