

Women in the Church Newsletter

Transformed to pursue the glory of God in our daily lives

-Becoming What We Behold-



Transformed by
Susan Hunt

Chapter 5: Sarah's Story

Dear Ladies, if you have had a chance to read this month's chapter, I hope you see how each one of us could insert our own names into the heading: _____'s Story. Everyday we see heart breaking news stories, new cases of Corvid-19, emails about our own brothers and sisters that are walking through various trials and fires... BUT God, in the midst of the pain, has given us Light and Hope yet again!



As we study Genesis 11-12, it tells of the pilgrimage of Abraham and Sarah.

They were not seeking God but were chosen by Him. This sets up the continuing contrast between the Way of Cain and the Way of Christ. The people of Babel trusted self-effort; Abraham and Sarah trusted God's promise. When the road is divided between the known and the unknown, we, like them, must choose between trusting the natural or the supernatural. We must walk by faith in the God who has made Himself known.

We face a lot of 'unknowns' right now, Sisters. Yet we have been made alive in Christ, therefore we've been given the capacity to go, do, and endure things we never would've considered when our hearts were dead. Peter says that Sarah hoped in God, and *did not fear anything that is frightening*, even though it was far beyond anything she had ever experienced.

As we continue to travel with Sarah, we see that like Eve, and like us, her sanctification is slow. But through every experience, side-trip, sickness, and delay God was with her, sovereignly working everything together to accomplish His purpose. **This is our God too.** His sovereignty assures us that He *can* keep His promises and His love assures us that He *will*. May we each share these life-giving truths with others even in the midst of 'social distancing'!



Missionary Focus

Flavian &
Inyange
Pardigon- Various Countries

Murat "O"-
Belgium

Blue Ridge
Presbytery-
Church Planting

Blue Ridge
Presbytery



**Testimony Corner:
Sunshine Cooper**

James 1:2-4 Count it all JOY, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

This passage in James is one of my favorite verses in the Bible and what I will often recite to myself when going through various trials. Recently, our family faced some difficult trials. In my Christian life, I have endured more difficult ones, but for some reason these more recent trials did not cause me to lean on Christ more fully but to throw myself a little “pity party”. I was focusing on the negative and not on the fact that the Lord was working something out in me that I could not see at the time. This dark pit of despair I had dug for myself only got deeper and deeper as the months went by and more trials came. During my personal devotional time, I was reading in Philippians 4 where Paul mentioned in his letter that as Christians, we are to think on things pure, just, honorable, true, lovely, excellent, etc. This was humbling to me when the Lord helped me to see that for months, I had been telling myself lies and dishonoring the Him in my negative speech and thoughts, and by even surrounding myself with people who fed this negativity in me. Praise the Lord that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness! Once I repented and started focusing on what was true, I could be joyful in these momentary afflictions and lean more fully on Christ to see me through. Trials will come, but when we “count it all joy”, we find ourselves becoming more steadfast in our faith and growing in sanctification.