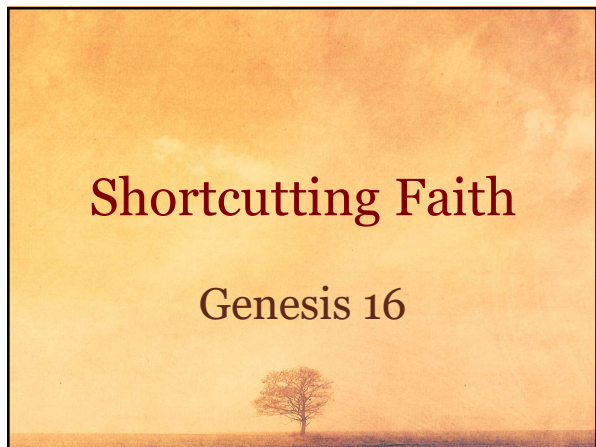
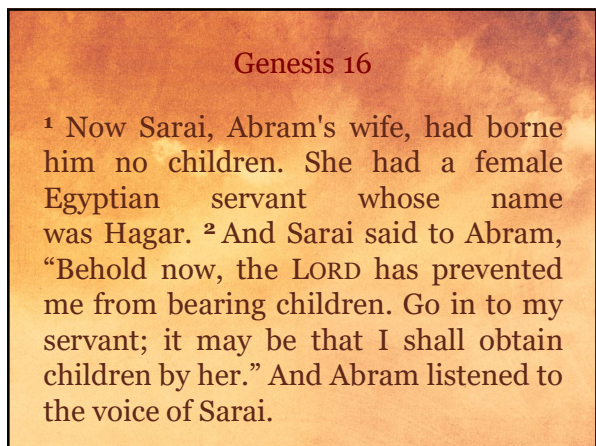


1



2



3

Genesis 16

³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

4

Genesis 16

⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!"

5

Genesis 16

⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. ⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

6

Genesis 16

⁸ And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.”

7

Genesis 16

¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said to her, “Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

8

Genesis 16

¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.” ¹³ So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”

9

Genesis 16

¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

10

Charles Spurgeon

Men will allow God to be everywhere except on his throne. They will allow him to be in his workshop to fashion worlds and to make stars. They will allow him to be in his almonry to dispense his alms and bestow his bounties. They will allow him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean;

11

but when God ascends his throne, his creatures then gnash their teeth; and when we proclaim an enthroned God, and his right to do as he wills with his own, to dispose of his creatures as he thinks well, without consulting them in the matter, then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us,

12

for God on his throne is not the God they love. They love him anywhere better than they do when he sits with his sceptre in his hand and his crown upon his head. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon his throne whom we trust.

- Charles Spurgeon

13


In this Passage, We See Four Destructive Shortcuts.

14

Shortcut #1

The Shortcut of Prideful Control

V.2a And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children.



15

Sarai Seizes Control in Two Ways.

- **She Seizes the Purposes of God:** She Made the Situation all about Herself.
- **She Seizes the Power of God:** She Thought It All Depended on Herself.

16


When God's Direction and Timing Don't Line Up with Your Own, Resist the Temptation to Dwell on Your Own Needs or Act in Your Own Power.

17

Shortcut #2

The Shortcut of Appealing Reason

V.2b Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.



18

Human Wisdom Can Be Convincing But Devastatingly Wrong.

James 3:15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

19

When a Course of Action Seems Readily Appealing, Evaluate it Carefully According to the Character of God, the Truth of Scripture, and the Leading of God's Spirit.

20

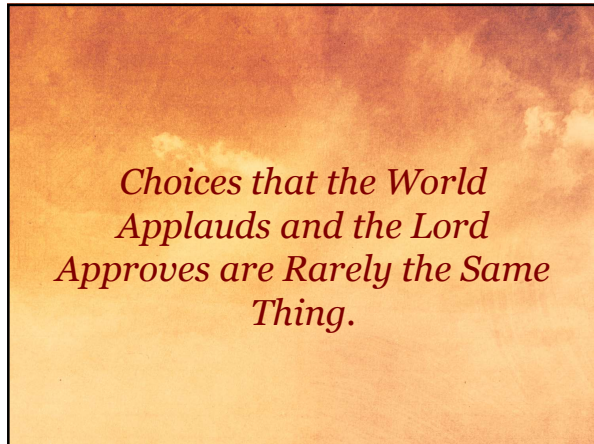
Shortcut #3

The Shortcut of an Approving Culture

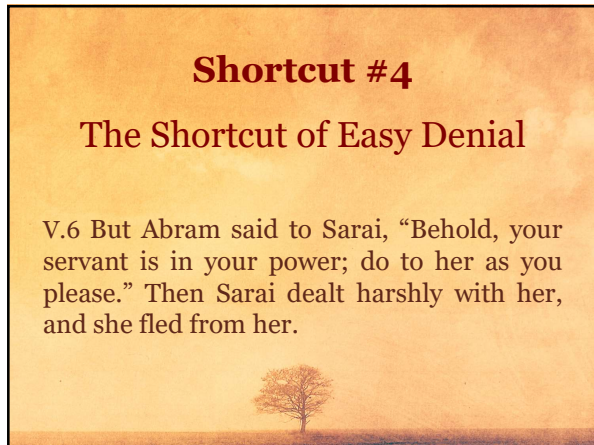
V.3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.



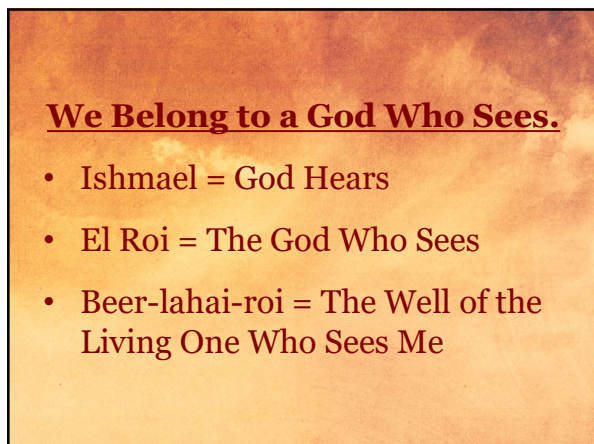
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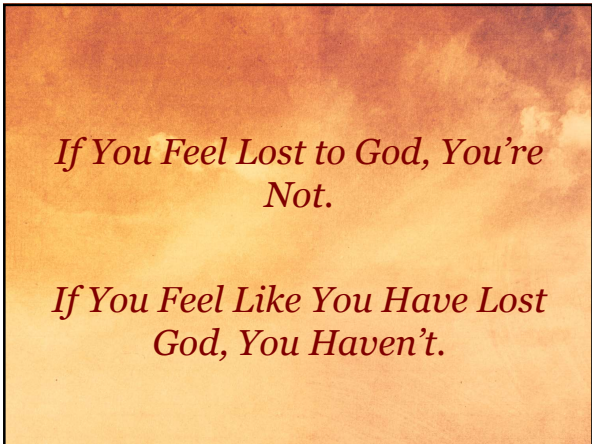
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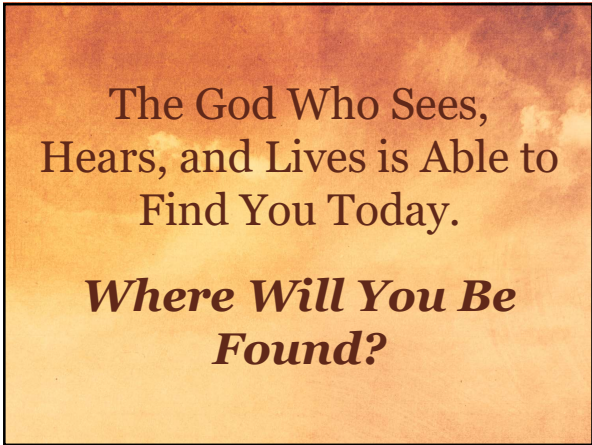
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25



26
