

**HOW CAN WE FIND VICTORY OVER BESETTING SINS?  
LEARNING FROM ABRAHAM'S LAPSE OF FAITH  
Genesis 20:1-18**

- I. RECOGNIZE WE WILL FAIL (OFTEN IN FAMILIAR AREAS) WHEN WE LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN TRUSTING IN THE LORD:**  
Abraham, while sojourning in Canaan, sins again (1-2a, 10-13)
- II. UNDERSTAND SIN IS SERIOUS; OUR SIN IS AGAINST GOD AND AFFECTS THOSE AROUND US:** Sarah, Abimelech, his household and his kingdom are affected by Abraham and Sarah's white lie (2b-7, 9, 17-18)
- A. Abimelech takes Sarah as his wife (2b)
  - B. God sovereignly stops Abimelech from touching Sarah, revealing he is about to be punished unto death for taking Sarah, because she is married (3)
  - C. Abimelech declares his innocence based on being deceived by Abraham (4-5)
  - D. God responds revealing He is holy, all-knowing, is sovereignly protecting Sarah and thus calls upon Abimelech to restore her to Abraham the prophet or he and his kingdom will die (6-7)
- III. CONFESS AND FORSAKE YOUR SIN WHEN IT IS EXPOSED RATHER THAN GIVING EXCUSES:** Abimelech quickly obeys, first confronting Abraham, yet he shamefully responds with excuses (8-13)
- IV. REALIZE IN SPITE OF YOUR FAILURES GOD IS GRACIOUS AND FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD:** Abimelech obeys, restoring Sarah to Abraham, also giving him much wealth and favor (14-16)
- V. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY YOUR SIN:** Abraham prays and God healed Abimelech and his household, in which He had closed their wombs (17-18)