

**HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH OUR FAILURES IN THE FLESH?
LEARNING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES THAT RESULT FROM
TRUSTING IN OUR OWN WISDOM, STRENGTH AND ABILITY
Genesis 21:8-21**

- I. UNDERSTAND THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT CANNOT COEXIST: As Isaac grows, Sarah observes Ismael mocking Isaac (8-9, Gal. 4, 5)**

- II. KNOW THE FLESH AND ITS RESULTS MUST BE CAST OUT: Sarah thus tells Abraham to cast out Hagar and her son because he shall not be heir (10, Gal 4)**

- III. DON'T FOLLOW YOUR FEELINGS BUT LET GOD'S WORD ENCOURAGE YOU TO OBEY: God confronts Abraham's viewpoint with His faithful, encouraging Word, calling upon him to obey (11-13)**
 - A. Abraham's initially thinks what Sarah is demanding is not right (11)

 - B. God vindicates Sarah calling upon Abraham to obey her voice and cast out Hagar and Ismael because his seed will be through Isaac (12, Rom 9)

 - C. Abraham is encouraged that the Lord will fulfil His promise concerning Ishmael (13)

- IV. IF YOU OBEY, RECOGNIZE THE LORD WILL GRACIOUSLY TAKE CARE OF THE DETAILS AND FULFILL HIS PROMISES: Abraham obeys, casting Hagar and Ismael out and the Lord takes care of them (14-21)**
 - A. Abraham obeys immediately and sends them away (14a)

 - B. Hagar wanders in the wilderness until out of water, thinking the boy will die (14b-16)

 - C. The Lord hears the boy crying and intervenes revealing His promise and provision (17-19)

 - D. Ishmael's life foreshadows that of unbelieving Israel: God was with Ishmael and he lived in the wilderness of Paran (near Sinai) and married an Egyptian (20-21, Gal 4)