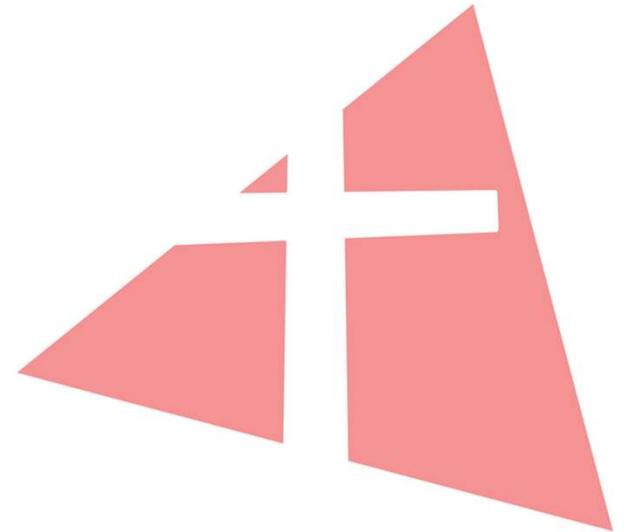


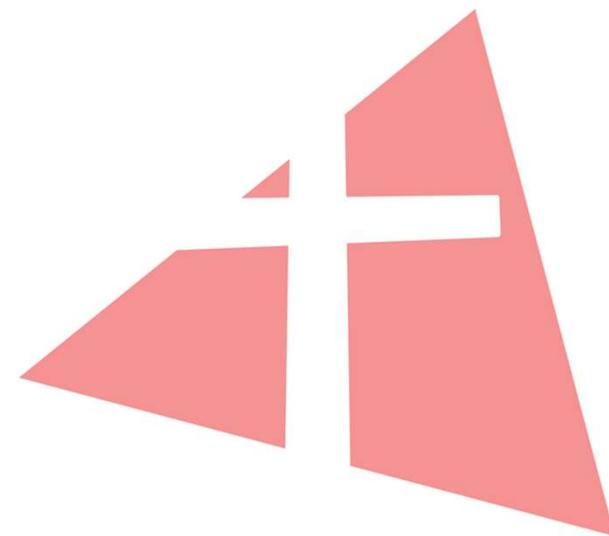
# **FRUIT OF MY LIFE: ISAAC OR ISHMAEL?**

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020



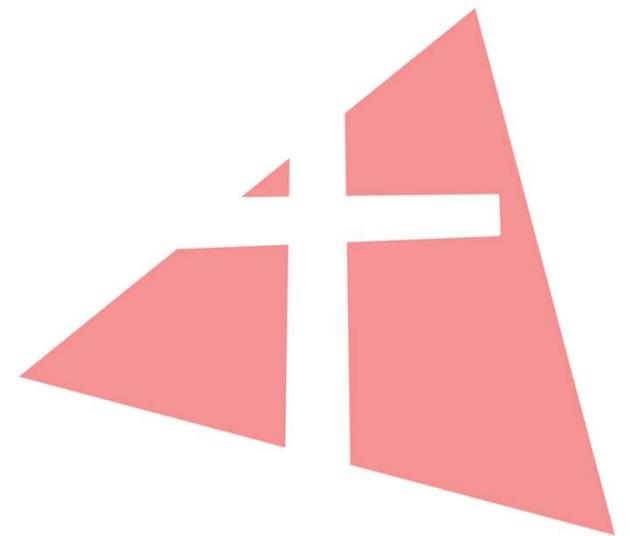
# INNER HEALING SERIES

- **Being Galatian or being Abraham?**



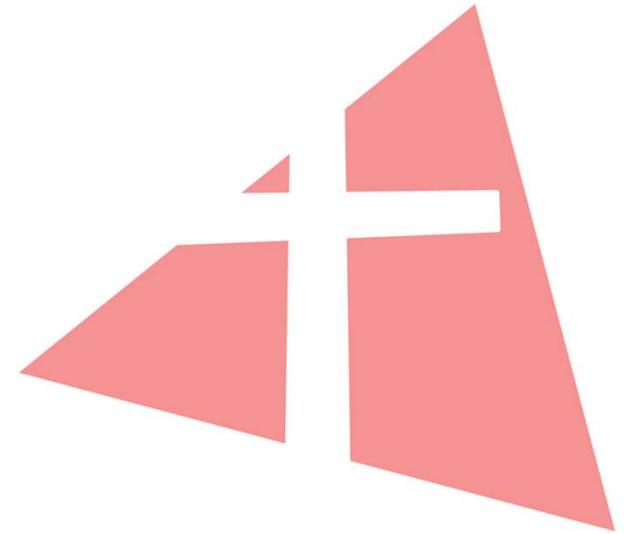
# TODAY'S FOCUS

- **Fruit of my life: Isaac or Ishmael?**



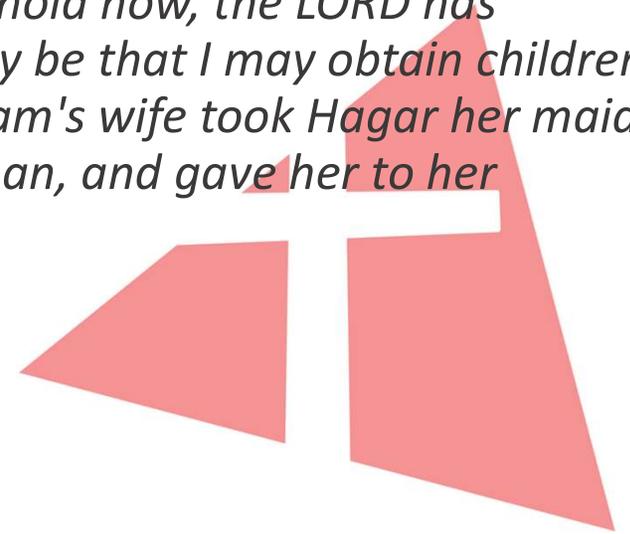
# GENESIS

- Abraham received a promise from God
- It just wasn't happening



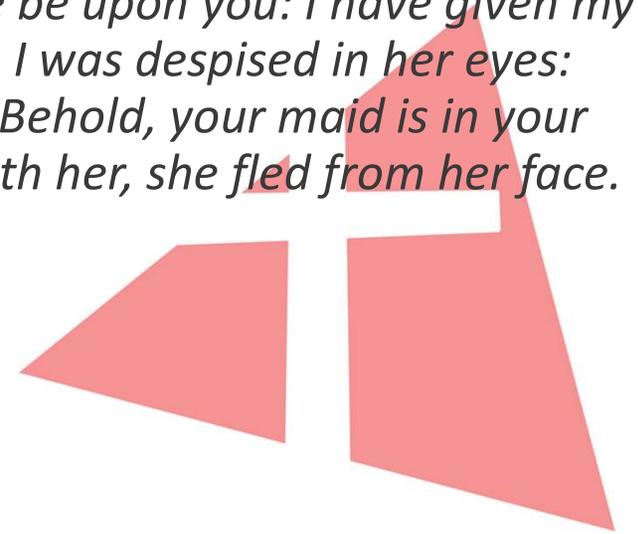
# SARAI'S IDEA

***Genesis 16:1-3** Now Sarai Abram's wife bore him no children: and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing: I pray you, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*



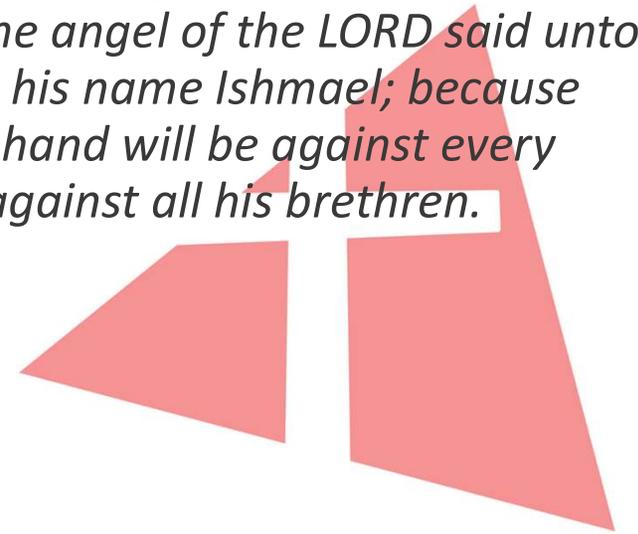
# SARAI'S REMORSE

*Genesis 16:5-6 And Sarai said unto Abram, The wrong done to me be upon you: I have given my maid into your bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and you. But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, your maid is in your hand; do to her as it pleases you. And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her face.*



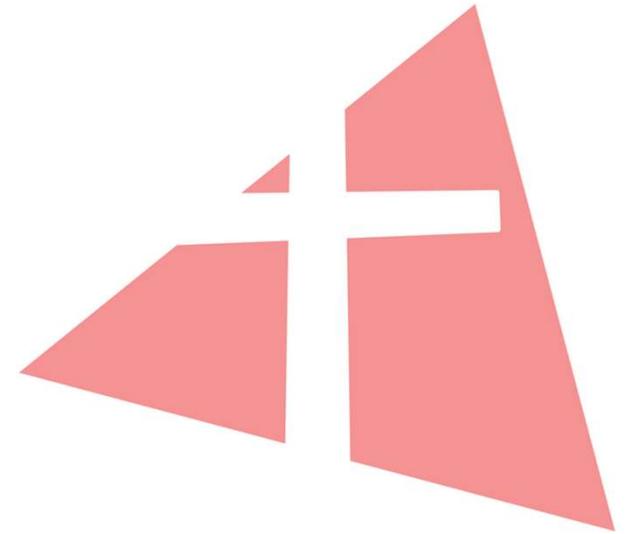
# ISHMAEL'S DESTINY

**Genesis 16:10-12** *And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, that they shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, you are with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael; because the LORD has heard your affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell over against all his brethren.*



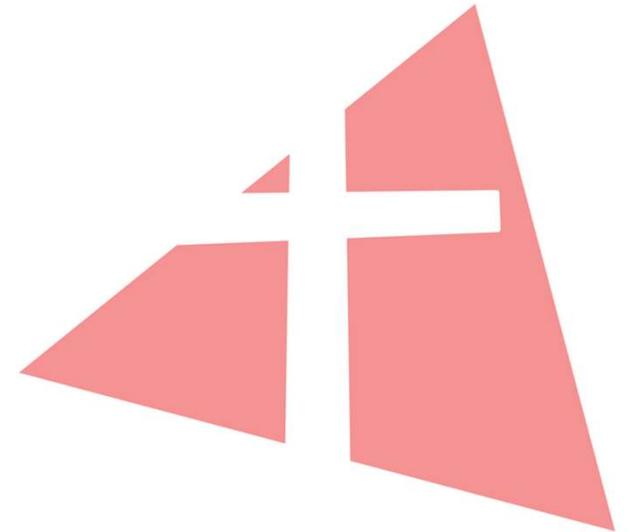
# ISHMAEL

- Ishmael played a major role in how Islam developed



# THE RESULT

- **Sarai relied on her own works instead of trusting in God's promises**
- **The consequence: Enmity and conflict**
  - Sarai and Hagar
  - Christians and Muslims



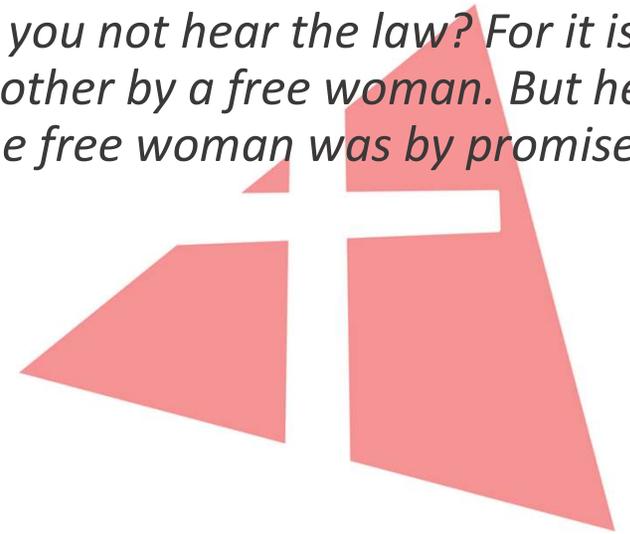
# LET'S NOT FORGET

- All God's promises did eventually come true
- But through Ishmael, a lot of troubles and difficulties were added to those who were recipients of the promise



# ABRAHAM'S TWO SONS

*Galatians 4:21-23* Tell me, you that desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the free woman was by promise.



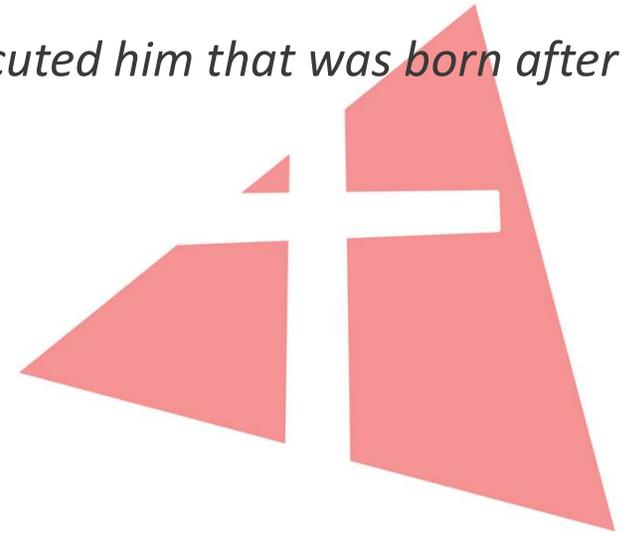
# THE SYMBOLISM

***Galatians 4:24-26** Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from mount Sinai, which brings forth to bondage, which is Hagar. For this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*



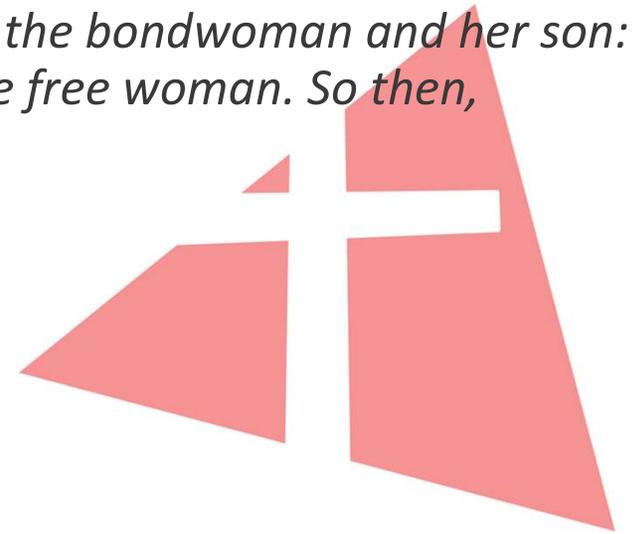
# ENMITY

*Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.*



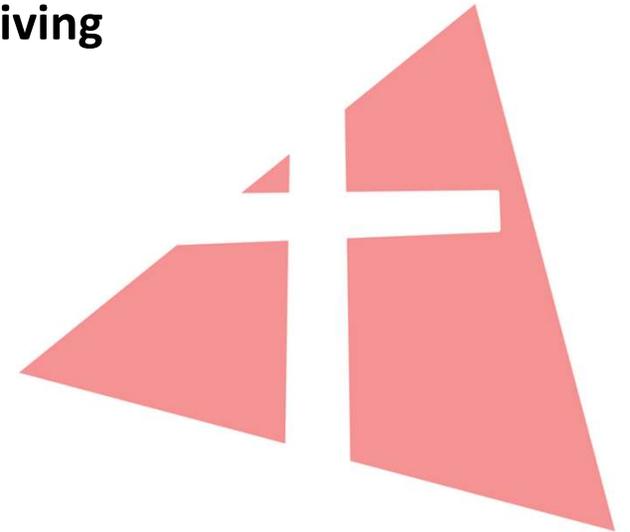
# PAUL'S CONCLUSION

*Galatians 4:30-31* Nevertheless what says the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.



# PAUL'S MESSAGE

- **Abraham's two sons are symbols of the result of two ways of living**
  - By Faith alone
  - Trusting in our own works in any form



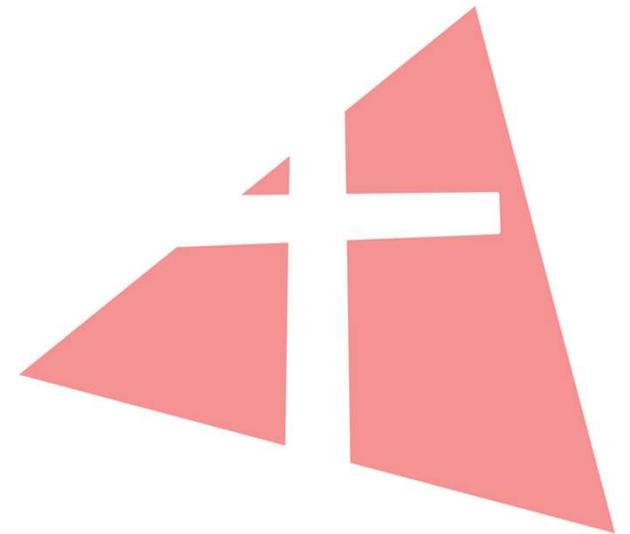
# MARY AND MARTHA

***Luke 10:38-42** Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about with much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*



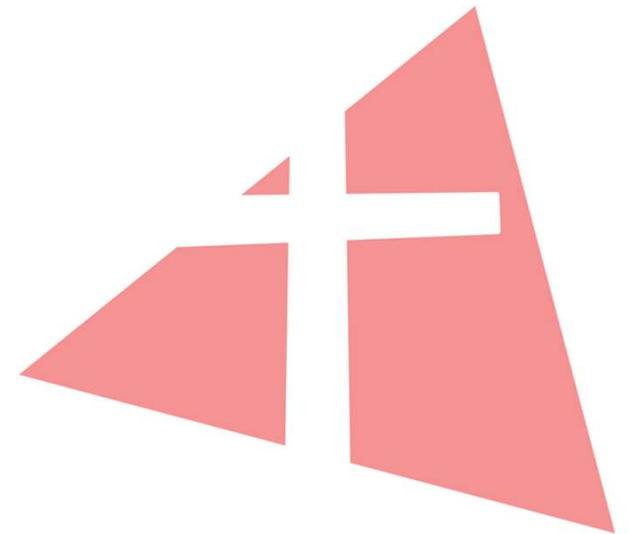
# SOME EXAMPLES

- **Doctrine**
- **Dealing with each other's sin**
- **Church growth (personal or in numbers)**
- **Overcoming our own sin**



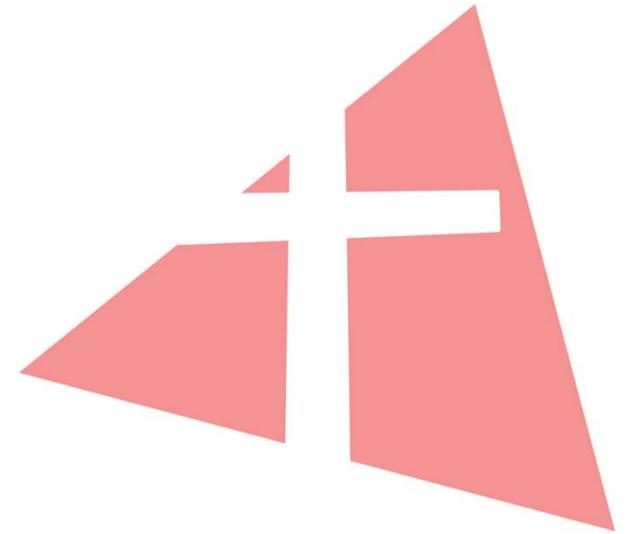
# SOME EXAMPLES

- Providing for ourselves
- Finding a spouse
- Serving in church



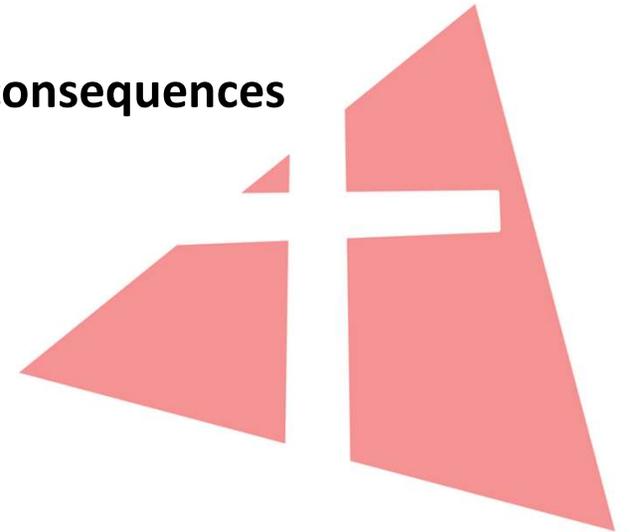
# WHAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM?

- **Doing things in our own strength expresses our unbelief!**



# THE MAIN POINT FOR TODAY

- **“Doing the right thing in our own strength” can have terrible consequences**



# INNER HEALING

*Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you shall have them.*



# ISAAC OR ISHMAEL?

- Is my life producing fruit like Isaac? Or is my life producing fruit like Ishmael?

