

1 Peter 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Analysis

Peter cites Sarah as exemplary holy woman. "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord" (hōs Sarra hypēkousen tō Abraam, kyrion auton kalousa)—referencing Genesis 18:12 where Sarah, speaking of Abraham, used term of respect. "Obeyed" (hypēkousen) indicates submission to Abraham's leadership. "Calling him lord" showed respect, honor. Peter applies this: "whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well" (hēs egenēthēte tekna agathopoiousai)—Christian women are Sarah's spiritual daughters when they follow her example of godly conduct. The encouragement: "and are not afraid with any amazement" (kai mē phoboumenai mēdemian ptoēsīn)—don't give way to fear or intimidation. Trusting God produces courage, not anxiety.

Historical Context

Sarah, despite imperfections (laughing at God's promise, Hagar situation), demonstrated faith and appropriate submission to Abraham. Peter doesn't endorse her failures but highlights her virtues. The phrase 'calling him lord' shocked modern readers but reflected ancient respectful address (like 'sir'). Peter's point: godly women trust God, respect husbands, and live courageously without fear. Early church taught that spiritual daughterhood of Sarah comes through faith and godly conduct, not mere ethnicity. The 'fear not' element is crucial—godly submission isn't cowardice but courageous faith.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does being Sarah's 'daughter' through faith and godly conduct (not mere ethnicity) shape your identity?
2. What does it mean to live without 'fear' while trusting God in difficult circumstances?

Interlinear Text

ὡς	Σάρρα	ὑπήκουσεν	τῷ	Ἀβραάμ	κύριον	αὐτὸν
Even as	Sara	obeyed	G3588	Abraham	lord	him
G5613	G4564	G5219		G11	G2962	G846
καλοῦσα	ἧς	ἐγενήθητε	τέκνα	ἀγαθοποιοῦσαι	καὶ	μὴ
calling	whose	ye are	daughters	as long as ye do well	and	not
G2564	G3739	G1096	G5043	G15	G2532	G3361
φοβούμεναι	μηδεμίαν	πτόησιν				
afraid	with any	amazement				
G5399	G3367	G4423				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 18:12 (References Lord): Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

Acts 4:19 (Parallel theme): But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

Isaiah 57:11 (Parallel theme): And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

Genesis 18:15 (Parallel theme): Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

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