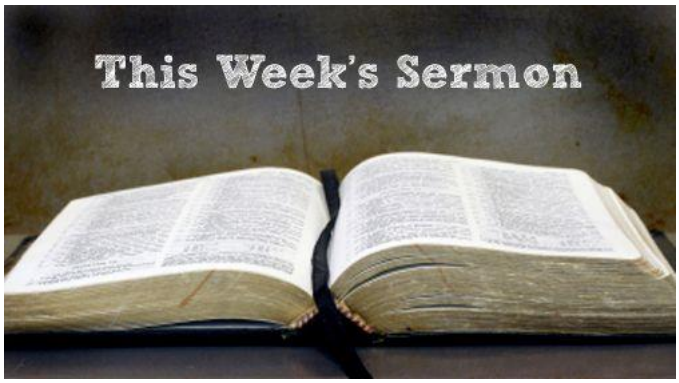

Learning to Laugh With God and Not At Him
(Genesis 18 and 21)

AMUSEMENT: Believers sometimes laugh *at* God when he _____ a promise.

Then the Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah ***laughed*** to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah ***laugh*** and say, `Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not ***laugh***."
But he said, "Yes, you did ***laugh***."

--Genesis 18:10-15 (NIV)

AMAZEMENT: Believers should laugh *with* God when he _____ a promise.

> Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name ***Isaac*** to the son Sarah bore him. . . . ["Isaac" means _____] Sarah said, "God has brought me ***laughter***, and everyone who hears about this will ***laugh*** with me."
>
> --Genesis 21:1-6 (NIV)