

WEEKLY REFLECTION

We often assume the Christian life should move in a straight line—from struggling believer to spiritual superstar, steadily getting better with every passing year. But that's not how it works, and it wasn't that way for Abraham either. Spiritual formation isn't linear. It's seasonal. We cycle through faith and fear, growth and setback, spring and winter, again and again.

In Genesis 20, we see Abraham stuck in one of these downward cycles. For the second time, he lets fear dictate his actions, telling a calculated half-truth about his wife to protect his own skin. He justifies his compromise by claiming the surrounding culture had no fear of God, when in reality, he was the one failing to trust God. As Oswald Chambers said, “When you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”

Yet, the beautiful truth of this story is that God doesn't immediately crush Abraham for his failure. Ironically, the word “prophet” is first used in the Bible to describe Abraham as he's caught in a lie. God is willing to call a liar His prophet. This shows that God's faithfulness is never dependent on our fickleness. God showed favour to Abraham and protected the lineage that would eventually bring us Jesus. While Abraham told half-truths to save his own life, Jesus stood before Pilate and spoke the absolute truth, willingly sacrificing His life to save ours.

Whatever season you find yourself in today—whether it's a vibrant spring or a cold, dark winter—don't let the enemy use shame against you. Lean into the cycle. Hold onto Jesus, and choose faith over fear.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Life is full of seasons and cycles. If your life right now were a season in the year (spring, summer, autumn, winter), which one would it be and why?

QUESTION TWO:

Abraham pulled the same trick in Genesis 20 that he did in Genesis 12, passing his wife off as his sister with a half-truth. Where do you see yourself repeating the same mistakes, even after God has proven Himself faithful?

Abraham told a half-truth to Abimelech. In what areas of life (work, family, friendships) are we tempted to operate this way?

QUESTION THREE:

Abraham justified his lie by saying, "There is no fear of God at all in this place" when he was the one who wasn't trusting God. How often do we use our environment, our workplace, or the culture to excuse our own lack of faith?

QUESTION FOUR:

Jesus is our safety bar in the rollercoaster of life, in all its ups and downs. Practically speaking, what does it look like to hold onto the safety bar during a dark winter season or a big drop?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. How does this verse comfort you?