



## Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.02.26

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

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### Sermon recordings

Click or type the short URL, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/Recordings/.

**Speaker-AM:** Josh Vinyard

**Title:** Frogs

**Recording:**

[tinyurl.com/JoshFrogs](https://tinyurl.com/JoshFrogs)

**Speaker-PM:** Nate Vick

**Title:** Ezekiel 6-12

**Recording:**

[tinyurl.com/NateEzekiel6](https://tinyurl.com/NateEzekiel6)

“I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.”

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

### Kept Promises, 2/29/2023 by Sam Bunyard

Does man know better than God? We often seem to think so. When Abram received promises from God that were dependent upon his descendants, he asked God, “What will you give me, seeing I go childless?” (Gn. 15:3). God assured Abram that his heir wouldn’t be anyone outside his household, but “one who will come from your own body” (Gn. 15:4). Abram “believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”. Yet Abram’s wife, Sarai, remained barren (Gn. 15:6). Sarai encouraged her husband to lay with her servant in hopes of producing a son by whom to fulfill God’s promise – but this was not God’s plan!

God intended to use Sarai’s barren womb to show His own authority and ability to deliver on His promises. He waited until she was well advanced in age to provide her with a son. When Sarai (now called Sarah) heard that she would become pregnant well past her childbearing years, she laughed within herself. “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” (Gn. 18:12). It seemed a ridiculous thing for a woman of her age to become a new mother! Hear God’s reply: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gn. 18:14).

Having faith in God’s promise, but not knowing His plan, Abraham and Sarah tried to devise a plan of their own. With worldly wisdom it would be Abraham’s oldest son, Ishmael, who would become the son of promise. However, this was Abraham’s plan - not God’s! In waiting to fulfill His promise through the previously barren womb of Sarah, God showcased His power, wisdom, and faithfulness. Abraham was “fully convinced that what [God] had promised He was also able to perform” (Ro 4:21). God kept His promise – but in His way and in His time!



## The Words of Jesus, 2/24/2023 by Doy Moyer

The recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ is integrally linked to His word as recorded in Scripture: “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day” (John 12:48).

The only way we know the words of Jesus is by the recorded testimony of the Spirit. We cannot discern this according to what we may feel, for feelings are fickle and selfish and we are taught to deny self (Luke 9:23). The question we continually face, then, is this: Will I keep Scripture as primary in my thinking and decision-making or will I operate autonomously to determine my own standard of authority?

This lies at the heart of the feelings-vs-Scripture, the tradition-vs-Scripture, and the personal experience-vs-Scripture debates. Is Scripture primary or secondary?

Bear in mind that any appeal to the Holy Spirit must be tempered by what the Holy Spirit has revealed, for, again, we are asking whether we accept Scripture as the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Personal claims and feelings do not prove anything relative to what the Spirit actually does. I do not deny the working of the Spirit, but I do deny that the Spirit would contradict Himself or operate in some vague, proof-less arena of feeling-based claims, for “even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

Jesus is the Word who gave His word, ensured His word, and by the Spirit recorded His word that we might know Him. “Let God be true though everyone were a liar” (Romans 3:4)