

# The God Who Sees Me

Genesis 16:7-13



Good Hope  
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd  
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe  
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925  
online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)

**FOCAL Read Responsively** Genesis 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spoke unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, **Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?**

**ILLUSTRATE** A man was coming out of church one day. When the pastor saw him he shook his hand and said, "Young man, you need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The Pastor asked, "Then how is it that I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

What is "a Christian"? When we define that term, are we just talking about someone who goes to "Church" and sits listening to the preacher spout off? Is "Christian" just a cultural thing? Is it a default religion that you fall into if you are not a Buddhist, a Muslim, or a Hindu?

The word "Christian" was not created by the followers of Christ. In the early Church we are told that the Apostle Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch and there **taught many people about Christ:**

**Acts 11:26 .... And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**

That title "**Christian**" was given to us by those who did not believe. "**Christian**" is actually a mocking term which means "**A little Christ**" or "**A Christ follower**", a **Disciple or Student of Christ**. If the Lord has called you and said "**Come, Follow Me**" - and you have have

followed Him by faith - then you were considered a "**Christian**".

The term "**Christian**" was originally given to the Christ follower as a term of derision. Things have changed. Today the brand "**Christian**" has been hijacked, and is being slapped on people and on things that are distinctly not following Christ.

**George Gallup** wrote in 1996 (in an article called *Will the Vitality of the Churches be the Surprise of the Next Century?*)

"What is the answer to society's basic needs? How are people's needs to be met? As a Christian I believe they are met in the Living Presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. .... I believe that living as a Christian answers the perennial questions: "Why am I here?" and "What is the purpose of my life?" And I believe that it is important for one to try to come to a decision about Jesus Christ. .... Christian growth continues through a lifetime. One never "arrives". That is what makes the Christian life so exciting. God's plan for our lives is continually revealed -- revealed to us as we seek to grow in obedience to him."

The word "**Christian**" is more than just a default religious title. It is a way of life. Though we were first called "Christian" in Antioche, the Old Testament believers were Christians. In the Old Testament Jesus Christ sought out people and called them to salvation by faith in Him. The Old Testament Saint was saved by believing in the *Coming Christ*. They looked forward - through revelation and prophecy - and believed on Him

Who was to come. We who are Christians now look *backwards* through revelation and prophecy, believing on the Christ Who has come. The Bible says:

**James 1:17** <sup>(NIV)</sup> **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.**

God our Father has been reaching out to people through Christ from the very beginning. It is His intention to *restore lives* damaged by sin - if we will heed Him.

In our text today we're going to see a life damaged by sin. And we're going to see something else - we're going to see the love of God in action. Jesus Christ was in the Old Testament looking for broken souls, and calling them to Himself for healing.

### **1. Jesus Is Always There For Us**

**FOCAL** **Genesis 16:13** **And she called the name of the LORD that spoke unto her, Thou God seest me ....**

In our house we have a television, but have never hooked it up to cable or even an antenna. Sherry and I prefer to purchase "series" of shows that we like, and play them on a DVD player. One of the shows we came across and really like is called "**Without a Trace**". In that show a team of investigators tries to find missing persons by creating a time-line. Using that time-line they eventually find out where that person went to.

Hagar and her young son - a baby - are lost and apparently alone in a desert. How did they get there? Well, let's build a time-line going through the context of Scripture.

**Context** Genesis 16:6 **Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.**

Hagar is in the desert because she is running for her life. Hagar was the Egyptian slave of Sarai, a young lady who was given unto Abraham by the Pharaoh of Egypt. Sarai is angry at Hagar and means to do her harm. But *why* is Sarai mad at Hagar? Look back further at our time-line:

**Context** Genesis 16:4 **And {Abraham} went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.**

Abraham "**went in unto Hagar, and she concieved**". In plain language that means that Abraham took sexual advantage of Hagar the slave. When Hagar bore a child Hagar mocked Sarai, for Sarai had no child. Well, why did Abraham do what he did? Look a little further:

**Context** Genesis 16:2 **Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.**

My goodness! Sarai actually asked Abraham to "**go in**

**unto my maid ... that I may obtain children by her"**. It was an ancient tradition in Chaldea (and Abraham was Chaldean) that - **if you couldn't have children - you could use another person as a surrogate mother, then adopt that child**. Sarai demanded that Abraham go in to Hagar, and that Hagar be the surrogate mother. The only thing was when Hagar had the child she would - in pride - mock childless Sarai.

Hagar was in the desert because of three acts of sin. Hagar in the **sin of pride** mocked childless Sarai. Sarai chased Hagar into the desert because of the **sin of envy and rage**. Sarai was mad because Abraham, like Adam before him, didn't lead his family. He should have told Sarai "no"!

The Lord had told Abraham:

**Context** Genesis 15:4-6 **... the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, ... he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**

Abraham was told by God that he would have many children **out of your own bowels**. Yet he - like us - sometimes tries to step out and help God. Dear friends, God doesn't need our help, but He wants our faithful obedience. When we trust in God we are preserved. But when we sin we often bring suffering on ourselves and

on others. Hagar is in the desert with her child because of sin - her sin, Sarai's sin, and Abraham's sin. She feels alone and abandoned. When we feel the most alone, God is still there for us. The word "sin" is not a very popular word in the world any more. People think that the concept of "sin" is outdated.

The Bible says ....

**Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Sin - the rejection of God's way - always leads us down hill. Sin is a master that leads its servants to death. God is a Master Who leads His servants to life.

Sin, contrary to what the world teaches, is *very, very bad for you*. What else does God say about sin?

**Job 4:8 ... they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.**

Those who **plow iniquity and sow wickedness, always reap what they sow**. Sin and goodness are like seeds. What you reap, you sow. Other religions - shadows of Christianity - teach a similar truth. The Indian religions (Buddha, Jain, and Hindu philosophies) teach this as *karma*. They took that from Judeo-Christianity, by the way. The Lord has always taught us "**what you sow - be it evil or good - you shall reap**".

**1. Jesus Is Always There For Us - Especially**

## **When Our Lives Are Messed Up**

Hagar and her baby are alone in the desert - and probably both of them are weeping. For her this is a hopeless situation. Dear friends, the hopeless situations are often the greatest blessings of our lives.

If you've fallen in a well, your only hope and only light will come when you stop thrashing about - admit you're in a mess - and LOOK UP!

We read:

**Context Genesis 16:7 .. the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.**

This is the first place in the Scripture that an **angel** is mentioned. But this is not a created angel. The phrase "**Angel of the Lord**" is often used not for the created angels but as an Old Testament reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ has always been with God - He is God the Son!

**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word {that's Jesus}, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

You may ask me "**How do you know that this 'Angel of the Lord' is Jesus?**" I'll tell you. First of all, the "**Angel of the Lord**" is a title used in Scripture for God. We read in:

**Psalms 34:7-9** The **angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.**  
**8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.**

The title "**Angel of the Lord**" is used by the Psalmist not for a created angel, but for God. Also look at our context. The Angel of the Lord promises Hagar:

**Context** **Genesis 16:10 ... the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.**

This is a covenant Promise that only God can keep. He made the same type of Promise to Abraham, telling him:

**Context** **Genesis 15:5 ... Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.**

God's promise to Hagar has been fulfilled. The children of Ishmael - the Arabs - number around **1.5 billion** people, comprising around 22% of the world's population. God kept His word. But I'll tell you another reason I believe that this is an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ. Jesus told the Pharisees:

**John 8:56** **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.**

Abraham saw Jesus' day. He saw Jesus, he spoke with Jesus. Jesus said:

**John 8:58** ... **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

Jesus Christ is this **Angel of the Lord**, an Old Testament manifestation of the Messiah.

**Context** **Genesis 16:7 .. the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.**

The Lord loves to seek out and restore the sinner. **He is the friend of sinners (Luke 7:34)**. To Pharaoh Hagar was a slave, something to be traded. To Abraham and Sarai Hagar was a surrogate, someone to be used. But to Jesus Christ Hagar is a soul with great potential - someone He sees and wants to redeem!

Jesus seeks to save the lost. What a beautiful and familiar pattern we find on this all throughout the Holy Scripture. Jesus found **Hagar by a fountain, and asked her ...**

**Context** **Genesis 16:8** **Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.**

Why did Jesus find her there? He says in verse 11 "**because the Lord hath heard thy affliction**". When we're suffering under the weight of sin's harsh hand, when we cry out and think no one else hears - the Lord hears.

Look through your Bibles. Where there is affliction and suffering because of sin, there is Jesus Christ the Savior. He is never far from the suffering.

In the New Testament the Lord found the **Samaritan woman drawing water at a well**, causing her to ask:

**John 4:9 ... How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.**

"Why would you speak to me, Jesus?" Because He cares. He cares enough to pause for a treed Tax Collector named **Zacchaeus**, saying:

**Luke 19:5 ... Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.**

Jesus even ran across a man so possessed of sin that he was called **Legion**. Casting the demons out the Lord told him ...

**Mark 5:19 ... Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.**

Dear friends, we as humans have a bad habit of getting into sin. We walk away from God, and bring a desert to our lives. Our hope is not in us, but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus never justifies sin. He never looks the other way. But He does offer salvation from sin, friendship and family from God, and eternal life to all who believe in Him.

## **When I Am Saved, I Am Called To Follow My Savior**

**Context** Genesis 16:9-12 ... the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

Jesus means to save Hagar and to bless Hagar - but she cannot stay in the desert of sin. Whenever Jesus saves a person, He calls that person to obedience. He told Hagar **"Return to your mistress Sarai and submit yourself under her hands"**. Hagar had to repent of her sin, not wallow in it. She had to confront her sin, apologize to Sarai, and continue to follow the guidance of the Lord in her life.

Where has God called you to service? If you have been saved by faith in Christ then the Lord calls you to service, to be a **"Christian"** or a **"Christ Follower"**.

**Gabe Lyons** wrote in his book *The Next Christians*:

**"God created each of us for a unique purpose, but most people never invest the time and energy to discover it. When they do, many are scared away by the changes a new direction might bring. But sometimes the issue isn't a lack of courage: it's a lack of clarity. Amid all the options, we just don't know how to discern what it is we are supposed to do."**

When people think about serving the Lord, they often think of being a Pastor or a Preacher or a Sunday School Teacher. These people all serve the Lord. But Beloved,

every Christian can't be a Preacher or a Teacher.

Serving the Lord means living for Him - letting His light shine through you - as you go about the life that God has led you to live.

Jesus said:

**John 10:10 ... I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

That abundant life is for everyone. The Lord saved Hagar and her son in the desert. What did He tell her to do? **Did He say, "Run away from being a slave. You're better than that! Get away from that place and head to another life, one that I will show you. No.** Look at your context:

**Context** Genesis 16:9-12 ... the angel of the LORD said unto her, **Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.**

Wait a minute. This woman was cruel to her. Abraham didn't help matters either. And now, Hagar is to return to Sarai. Why? I'll tell you why.

**a** First of all, as a Christian Hagar was suppose to **repent of her sin**. That's not a very popular concept today, but it is what God expects.

When our Lord Jesus walked this earth the Pharisees often condemned Him, saying:

**Luke 15:2 ... This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.**

They saw this as an accusation, a reason to hate Jesus. **How dare this Man do this? He receives sinners. He welcomes them, treating them as more than they are. They are scum - unlike us self righteous Pharisees. They are undeserving.**

How foolish. The truth of the Scripture is that we are all equally sinners in the eyes of God. Yes, some sinners are outwardly worst than others. But all are sinners. Rather than condemn the blind Pharisees for their self righteousness Jesus said:

**Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.**

Now was He saying that there *are* some people who do not need to repent? No.

Without repentance Heaven will not rejoice over any of us. We are all sinners that need to repent, casting ourselves on the Lord.

When we repent we turn fully toward Jesus and trust Him to blot out our sins. He is our Redeemer if we come unto Him. Jesus said:

**Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over ONE SINNER**

## **THAT REPENTETH.**

Hagar showed her repentance by **going back and submitting herself to her mistress Sarai**. To submit means that she would quit mocking - and if she quit mocking she would not be abused.

**b** Secondly, a Christian is called **to be a Christ follower**. We go where He sends us. We do what He tells us. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:14** **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

**Illustration** Every Christian is a **light of the world**. There are all different types of lights. Go in a store and look at the variety of just *flashlights*. Some use a large, bulky 6 volt battery. Others a tiny AAA battery. Some use regular bulbs, some halogen bulbs, some light emitting diodes (LEDs). Some plug into your car battery. Some float, so if used by a fisherman and dropped in the water they come back to the top. But they all have one thing in common.

They shine!

Shine where Jesus puts you. Grow where you are planted. You are a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Turn from sin, and follow the Savior.

**c** Third, a Christian is someone who is in a relationship

with Jesus Christ. We read:

**FOCAL** **Genesis 16:13** **And she called the name of the LORD that spoke unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?**

God told Hagar to name her baby **Ishmael – the Lord hears me** – and she would. As a child of God she would be obedient. But also notice that Hagar – once a pagan worshiper of many gods – now gives God a name. She calls Him **El Roi or Almighty God Who Watches Over Me**. She has a relationship with the Lord Who saved her.

Adrian Rogers once said:

**"I believe that a great number of people are going to die and go to hell because they're counting on their religiosity in the church instead of their relationship with Jesus to get them to heaven. They give lip service to repentance and faith, but they've never been born again."**

Don't let that be said of you. If you are born again, know that God sees you. Live for Him.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

**FOCAL Read Responsively** Genesis 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spoke unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, **Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?**

Acts 11:26; James 1:17

The term "**Christian**" was originally given to the Christ follower as a term of derision. Things have changed. Today the brand "**Christian**" has been hijacked, and is being slapped on people and on things that are distinctly not following Christ.

---

---

---

---

---

**1. Jesus Is Always There For Us**

Genesis 16:13; Genesis 16:6; Genesis 16:4; Genesis 16:2; Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 6:23; Job 4:8

Sin - the rejection of God's way - always leads us down hill. Sin is a master that leads its servants to death. God is a Master Who leads His servants to life.

---

---

---

---

---

**1. Jesus Is Always There For Us - Especially When Our Lives Are Messed Up**

Genesis 16:7; John 1:1; Psalms 34:7-9; Genesis 16:10; Genesis 15:5; John 8:56; John 8:58; Genesis 16:7; Genesis 16:8; John 4:9; Luke 19:5; Mark 5:19

If you've fallen in a well, your only hope and only light will come when you stop thrashing about - admit you're in a mess - and LOOK UP!

---

---

---

---

---

**When I Am Saved, I Am Called To Follow My Savior**

Genesis 16:9-12; John 10:10; Genesis 16:9-12

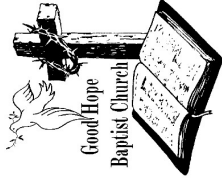
**a** First of all, as a Christian Hagar was suppose to

Luke 15:2; Luke 15:7; Luke 15:10

b Secondly, a Christian is called to be \_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew 5:14**

**c** Third, a Christian is someone who is in \_\_\_\_\_ **Genesis 16:13**

---



4038 Graham Sherron Road  
Wake Forrest, NC 27587

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Living Together In The Love Of God