

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to campus! Hopefully, the time away provided time to relax, and you are returning to the NU family with a sense that you are home. For me, the break included fun moments with friends and family members along with alone time to read and catch up on sleep. Did I say “sleep”? I am so glad God created sleep!

As I look ahead to this coming semester, there are many things to look forward to—but there is also a lot of work and maybe even moments of feeling overwhelmed and anxious. Recently, I was reminded of a familiar Scripture that is helping me believe God for great things. In Genesis 18, Abraham and Sarah received a visit from three men. We don’t know who the three men were. Some believe they represent the Trinity, and some think they represent the Holy Spirit. When the men showed up, Abraham and Sarah quickly welcomed them. They baked bread and washed their feet as they anticipated what the messengers would say. The message was one that seemed impossible in human terms. Abraham and Sarah would give birth to a child at the age of 100 and 90 years old, respectively. The thought of childbirth at that age makes me think I need more sleep!

If you know the story, you might remember that Sarah especially scoffed at this thought. She had been barren all of her life, and now she would have a child. It was simply crazy! The men responded by saying, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:13). You might think it was this familiar passage that caught my attention, but it was actually another aspect of the story that captivated me. I mentally comprehend the fact that God is capable of doing difficult things, but have I, like Abraham and Sarah, prepared myself to hear from the Holy Spirit just as Abraham and Sarah prepared for the message given by the three visitors? It is possible that the messengers might not have given Abraham and Sarah the promise if they did not present themselves ready to receive it. They were so eager to hear from the men that they quickly baked bread and humbly washed their feet.

I want God to do the ‘hard things,’ but I also want to engage with God’s Spirit in a way that I am hearing him, listening to him, and prepared to see the miracles of God played out throughout these coming months.

In a short video, Pastor Christian Dawson has an encouraging word for us as we prepare to be a community devoted to prayer in the coming days. [I encourage you to click here and join in with Northwest University’s 21-Day Prayer Devotional this January.](#)

God, I pray that, like the three visitors, you will visit us at NU. We welcome the Holy Spirit with open hearts to hear and receive the word of God into our lives. Like Abraham and Sarah, you have a promise for us. It may seem difficult to fully understand but we receive it by faith.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Jan 14 | Chapel: Liturgical Rhythms – Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, Jan 14 | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, Jan 16 | Chapel: People of Prayer – Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, Jan 18 | Chapel: Ephesians – Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

[For more information on Spiritual Life credit at Northwest University, please watch this video.](#)



NU Students – Do you need a spiritual mentor? The Mentorship Program has officially launched!
[Check out Mentorship on the Campus Ministries page on Eagle.](#)



Your friend,

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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges