

Part Three: WAITING ON GOD'S PROMISES

The Story of Abraham, Sarah, Ishmael & Isaac

Genesis 12:1–7

Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 16:1–4

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. ³ Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. ⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

Genesis 16:15-17:1

So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. ¹⁷ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

SEVEN EVENTS FROM THE PROMISE TO THE FULFILLMENT

1. A promise from God at 75 years old
2. Obedience and waiting on God until 85
3. Doubt and human reasoning
4. Sin and the resulting consequences
5. Further delay for 13 more years
6. Continued faith by Abraham

Romans 4:19–22

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

7. The promise fulfilled at 100 years of age 25 years after it was given.

Genesis 21:1–6

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. ³ And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac. ⁴ Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me.”

2 Corinthians 5:7

We walk by faith, not by sight.

Faith begins with a word from God.

Faith then acts upon that word as it “walks” obediently upon the word without proof waiting for the fulfillment.

The Wait

- The duration of the wait varies based on the promise and God’s will for our lives.
- The duration of the wait varies based on how we wait.
- God always has an important purpose in making us wait.

THE FIVE WHY'S OF WAITING

1. Practical preparation

Genesis 7 – God commands Noah to build an Ark in preparation for the flood and has to give him enough time to finish it.

2. Character and maturity development

1 Peter 4:12–13

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Try = Test; Expose for the purpose of strengthening and improving.

3. Patience and God's Timing

Luke 2:48–52

So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

4. Experience and favor

5. Deepened faith and dependence upon God

THE FIVE HOW'S OF WAITING

1. Wait obediently
2. Wait peacefully

Luke 24:49

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

Jerusalem = City of Peace

3. Wait together with other believers

Matthew 18:19–20

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

4. Wait under authority - Romans 13 / Hebrews 13
5. Wait seeking God first and not the fulfillment of the promise.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.