

THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE WORTH WAITING FOR

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Gen. 16:3

“So after Abram had been living in Canaan for ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.”

Have you ever taken a journey of faith in what you knew for sure was God’s leading? Everything seemed clear when you received God’s directives, you had no doubt that God was on your side and He would fulfill every promise He gave you. But after what you thought would take days or perhaps a few weeks to be fulfilled turned into months and years of waiting, you started doubting. Not only did time seem to be running out, but also your outward circumstances seemed to indicate otherwise. What started off as a bright light of hope slowly began fading as your glimmer of faith waned. Given such a situation natural reasoning would suggest that you seek an alternative option that is logical and of natural course rather than supernatural.

Abraham was in such a predicament. At the age of seventy five the Lord promised he would be the father of a great nation through his offspring. Abraham obeyed God and took this journey of faith. After ten years of walking in faith there was still no sign of the promised son. Faced with diverse limitations, Abram and Sarai opted to bear a child through Hagar a bond servant of Sarah. Unfortunately, they did not consider the consequences of bearing Ishmael.

Sometimes when the Lord takes too long to fulfill His promises we tend to think that an “*Ishmael*” option is better than sticking in a persevering state. Even though an “*Ishmael*” option may seem to be an “*okay*” substitute of the promise (Isaac), there are consequences that come with it. However, if we patiently wait of God He will faithfully fulfill His promises.

God’s promises for your life are subject to obedience. We must be willing to walk in obedience if we want to see the fulfillment of His promises in our lives. Deuteronomy 28 lists the blessings that would follow the Israel if they obeyed God and the curses that would behold them if they were rebellious. As Christians we have to remember when it comes to the promises of God is not all up to God to fulfill them but we are expected to submit to Him. Another thing to note is that not all promises of God came without a battle or obligation. Many times people think that when the Lord gives them a promise all they have to do is sit and wait for it.

The Lord promised the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey, He said they would inherit houses they did not build and vineyards they did not plant. But have you ever considered that they had to fight the giants of the land before possessing it. In Joshua 1:8 the Lord gave the Israelites the strategy of winning the battle over the giants and being successful in the Promised Land “*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*”

We can learn from Abraham that even though we may have made a wrong choice at one point or another God is gracious enough to give us a second chance. We can learn from our past mistakes and use them as stepping stones to trusting God like never before. Therefore, when “*Ishmael*” seems to be an option; consider the long term consequences and take the option of waiting for your “*Isaac*” not matter how long it takes because the blessings are worth waiting for.