

## WAITING REQUIRES TRUSTING



## PRECEPT

## ISAIAH 28:16

<sup>16</sup> Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.

## GENESIS 21:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

## ISAIAH 40:31

<sup>31</sup> But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

## PROMISE

Waiting is hard work, and as humans, we are prone to take matters to our own hands. A lot of times, we want to get our desires or plans to happen right away. It is especially difficult when there are no guarantees as to when we will get what we want. Desires we long for and prayers we've been praying for a long time can tempt us to be impatient, discouraged, worried, or even wonder if God cares.

What happens when we wait on God's timing without us trusting Him? We become like the Israelites who has said these things, *"If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt!"* (Exodus 16:3) and *"Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?"* (Numbers 14:3). The Israelites was on their journey to the promised land for forty years, so instead of waiting on God and trusting Him to get them through, they grumbled and would rather go back to the nation that enslaved them. Their waiting resulted to complaining and wanting to quit. Sarah, the wife of Abraham, also had trouble waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. She was old, barren, and tired of waiting, so she came up with a plan of her own to ensure God's promise to make her husband a great nation would come to fruition. She made her Egyptian slave, Hagar, sleep with her husband and bear a child. Isaiah 28:16 tells us, *"Those who trust in Him will not act in haste."* But her foolish plan didn't stop God to give her a son and His covenant with Abraham to be the father of many nations. Genesis 21:1-5 says, *"<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup> When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him."* Genesis 17:4-6 also says, *"<sup>4</sup> As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> 'No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you."*

Isaiah invites us to trust in the Lord and wait on His great promise. Isaiah 40:31 says, *"but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."* Let us look to Christ as He will strengthen us in times of waiting. When the storms of life come upon us, we can rise above them by putting our faith and trust in God. His power will lift us up above the dark clouds so we can ride the winds of storm, just like the eagles. So wait on the Lord and be of good courage.

## PRACTICE

**1. Waiting on God.** Do you like to wait? What makes waiting so easy or difficult for you?

**2. God's Promise.** Do you feel like you are in a waiting season right now? What are you waiting for? How can we pray with you that you would wait well?

## PRAYER

## I. Joy

- May we all find joy in serving God and His people, with all our might and all our strength.

## II. Peace

- Ask for peace from our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace and the Captain of our Storms.

## III. World

- Pray for all the broken souls of this world, that they will find Christ and His undying love.

## IV. Retreat

- Pray for a meaningful & blessed couple's retreat.

## V. Marriages

- Pray for unity, humility, and selflessness in marriages.

## VI. Families

- Pray that we will always look out for each other's interests.

## VII. Church

- May we come to know Christ more intimately in our services.