



FINDING PEACE IN WAITING

The Waiting Room

A sermon on waiting for God's promises — Genesis 17:15-22

Andrew Pham

OPENING QUESTION

Does anyone actually like waiting?





THE TEXT

Genesis 17:15–22

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”



Genesis 17:15–22

¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac.^[a] I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.” ²² When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

01

The Desires & Promises of God

In Genesis 12:2–3, God promises Abraham and Sarah they will *“be a great nation, have a great name, and all people will be blessed through them.”*

“If you, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

What has God put on your heart?

What has God promised you that has yet to come to fruition?

02

The Waiting Room

Abraham left Haran for the promised land at 75. Isaac was born when he was 100.

God gave no timeline — only the promise. No due date, like a pregnancy. Just faith, held open-ended.

25

YEARS OF WAITING

From the promise at age 75 to Isaac's birth at age 100

Why does God make us wait?



God Loves Us

He knows the perfect timing for the gift — giving it too soon could hurt us or others.



Increases Our Faith

Waiting teaches us to trust Him rather than take control.



Removes Our Idols

Waiting exposes when a godly desire has quietly become more important than God Himself.

Finding Peace in the Waiting Room

Five practices while we wait for the promise



1

Process

Bring your doubt & disappointment honestly to God.



2

Pacify

Release your need to control what you cannot change.



3

Protect

Guard your heart from comparison with others.



4

Persevere

Never give up in prayer — like the persistent widow.



5

Promises

Trust — they will be delivered at the appointed time.



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Genesis 16:1–4

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ²so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

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THE TEXT

Genesis 21:1-5

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac^[a] to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

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Conclusion: Three Truths

As we wait on God to fulfil His promises, remember:

1

The waiting room is essential for Christ-like growth.

2

The waiting room is exactly where God wants you to be.

3

The waiting room lasts only for a period God Himself appoints.



*“The Lord did for Sarah what He had promised — at the very time
God had promised him.”*

GENESIS 21:1-2

Let us pray.