

CHALLENGES OF WAITING UPON THE LORD

1. Impatience and Anxiety

It's difficult to wait when answers are delayed, and we don't see progress.

- **Psalm 27:14** – *"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*
- **Philippians 4:6-7** – *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

(**Genesis 16**) Abraham and Sarah were promised a son but they weren't content to wait for the promise to come to pass. They decided to take matters into their own hands. Figuring they were old and didn't have time to waste waiting, Sarah suggested that Abraham have a child with her handmaiden Hagar, who gave birth to Ishmael. This created terrible hatred and jealousy to the point where Hagar and her son Ishmael were banned from their presence and sent off to die. Talk about rejection! There was so much pain and suffering that could have been avoided had Abraham and Sarah exercised a little patience and waited on God.

2. Doubt and Uncertainty

When prayers seem unanswered, doubt can creep in about God's promises.

- **Isaiah 40:31** – *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles..."*
- **Habakkuk 2:3** – *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."*

Genesis 18:10-15 (Sarah laughs in disbelief when told she will have a child in her old age)

3. Feeling Forgotten or Abandoned

It can feel like God has overlooked us, especially when others seem to be moving forward.

- **Psalm 13:1** – *"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"*
- **Isaiah 49:15** – *"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast...? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"*

1 Kings 19:1–18 (After Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal, Queen Jezebel threatens his life, and Elijah runs into the wilderness, feeling completely alone and discouraged. He even prays for death, feeling like his efforts were in vain).

4. Temptation to Take Matters Into Our Own Hands

In the absence of clear direction, we may be tempted to act without God's timing.

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..."*
- **1 Samuel 13:8-14** – (Saul's impatience cost him his kingdom when he acted without waiting for Samuel.)

5. Discouragement and Weariness

Long waits can lead to emotional and spiritual fatigue.

- **Galatians 6:9** – *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*
- **Romans 8:25** – *"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."*

Book of Job (Job experienced a sudden and overwhelming loss of his wealth, health, and family. Throughout his trials, he faced the discouragement of intense suffering and the silence of God. He questioned the reasons for his suffering, wondering why a righteous man like himself had to endure such agony)