

Walking in Love. 5 Love is Patient.

Recap on our measuring Stick.

1 Corinthians 13 : 4-8. 4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails.

Love is Patient. Long suffering. Is able to endure hardship, evil and provocation.

Patience is an essential quality that is needed if we want to inherit what God has for us in our life, our destiny, our purpose, our gifting, our ministry.

Hebrews 6 : 10-15. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. 12We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. 13When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

Question: What is the opposite to patience and what do you think can happen when we struggle to be patient?

1/. Some results of "impatience" in the life of Abraham.

Genesis 16 : 1-2. 161Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; 2so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her."
Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Here we see the enemy at work in the mind of Sarai. Her words reveal her thoughts. "The lord has kept me from having children". Sarai's impatience opened the door for the enemy to sow doubt into her mind and heart as to how this promised child would come. This doubt was what the enemy used to get to Abram as we will see in a moment.



Abraham had to wait 25 years before Gods original promise to him came to pass.

God works many things according to His Timing.

Gal 4 : 1-5. What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2He is subject to tutors and governors until the time set by his father. 3So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. 4But when the time had fully come (the appointed time), God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Tutors. means Domestic manager. A commissioner. One who organises and administrates.

Governors. A house distributor.

Made up of oikos. meaning a dwelling, a family home or household.

And nomos. Meaning to parcel out, especially in respect to food or grazing to animals. And to Law, in regard to principles and regulations.

Though we are children, we are no different to slaves in the respect to receiving our inheritance at an appointed time.

That appointed time may also depend on our ability to learn from and grow through the teaching we are fed with and the tests that we must face which are designed to bring us to the place where we are ready to receive what has been promised.

To be clear though. Our inheritance in Christ that we are talking about here is the purpose, the function, the part we have to play, within the body of Christ and in the world around us. Not the inheritance that has been provided for us to receive immediately, such as the baptism in the Holy Spirit, freedom from sin, authority of demons, health and strength, righteousness and Holiness etc. These things are ours from the moment we have been born again.

Ecclesiastes 3 : 1. There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

2/. Doubt loves delay.

Abraham had been waiting 10 years. He was getting older. Sarah was 75 years old.

Impatience opens the door to doubt. Doubt opens the door to diversions.



Three things that Abraham did as a result of doubting.

a/. Abraham reverted to his own reasoning.

2 so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Abraham agreed with Sarah. "The Lord has kept me from bearing children." Impatience can leave us open to human persuasion and ungodly influence. Questions arose.

"Maybe God didn't plan to use my wife".

God's principles and laws never change. If it is in the bible don't try to change it or go around it.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. When God says a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, that's what He means. Thou shalt not commit adultery is an eternal principle with God. God shows us His disapproval of the use of Hagar by not acknowledging her as Abrahams wife when God calls her **Hagar, maidservant of Sarai.**

"Maybe God is angry with me!"

Barrenness was often seen to be the result of judgement for sin. Do you think that God is not opening up your destiny to you because you may have done something to upset Him? The appointed time had not yet come for Sarah to bring forth the promise.

A promise delayed is not a promise denied. Don't automatically think that because it hasn't happened yet that it never will.

b/. Abraham reverted to his own strength. Abraham went with Hagar. Hagar represents the work of the flesh. Sarah the work of the Spirit. The flesh gives birth to the flesh. Only one thing can be produced by our own efforts. Trouble.

Hagar means "stranger". It was because of Abraham's last mistake of going into Egypt (turning to the world) that he picked up Hagar (a stranger). She appears to have been given to Abraham by the Pharaoh of Egypt after being sent away by him due to God's judgement upon the Pharaoh. Abraham started off in the Spirit by believing God for His promise, but ended up walking in the flesh

The work of the flesh will always end up bringing distress. Because of Abrahams turning to his own strength and not waiting patiently for the promise to come to pass, he produced an Ishmael. For 14 years Abraham had to nurture Ishmael, that which was born of his flesh. Now God came to him to tell him it was time to let him go.



Question : How do you know when you are being tempted to nurture an Ishmael?

2b/. 1 When we feel insecure about the timing of our ministry.

When is it going to happen? Will it ever come about where I am now?

Proverbs 16 : 9. In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 20 : 24. A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?

When we begin to get impatient, we start observing our circumstances and wondering how on earth God is going to make it happen. How is He going to make my vision come to pass? You will be tempted to try to make things happen rather than let them happen. From the time the apostle Paul received his vision to be a witness to the gentiles, to the actual time he was released into ministry was 14 years. He tried to start earlier and caused havoc.

2b/. 2 If you are intimidated by others in your fellowship who operate in the same gift as yourself because in your eyes they may appear to be more gifted than you.

We may think that they will be preferred over us because of their great gifting. That they will be Given more opportunity to move forward in their ministry and It's going to take a lot longer for us to be used because of them.

Proverbs 18 :16. A mans gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

We must learn to believe that our gift is just as important as anyone else's, be patient and rest in God's ability to open the doors of our life. Otherwise we may be tempted to find somewhere where we think we will have more chance of being used, step out of God's plan for us and find ourself nurturing an Ishmael, a work of our own strength, that one day we will be told by God to get rid of.

Or maybe you will be tempted to think "what's the point, i'll never be as good as them", and decide to give up. All God given gifting takes time to develop and must be exercised by us so we may become skilful. We must be patient.

Maybe you have been nurturing an Ishmael for some time. You've pushed your way forward in life and it's just not working out for you the way you'd hoped.



You know God is asking you to let go of it but you can't because you've become too attached to it.

You may have started out in the Spirit with the best intentions but ended up in the flesh. You may have started out in faith believing in God's power and ability to prosper you, but you have reverted to relying on your own ability for the outcome.

c/. Abraham reverted to his old nature. Abraham knew Hagar his wife's maidservant.

Hagar means "stranger". Abraham was meant to stick with what he knew to be right. To believe in God's ability and power to bring about what He promised and to maintain his own holiness and relationship with God. Instead because of a lack of patience He reverted to an old Assyrian custom that allowed a man to adopt one of his own male servants to be an heir of his house. So he slept with Hagar, a stranger. When we don't see it happening God's way, we often fall into the trap of trying to make it happen the world's way. When God's promises seem a long way off and we begin to get tired of waiting for them, we will be tempted to fulfil our own dreams, even using immoral methods.

How patience is produced in us. (In the Soul)

All the patience we need in order to receive all that God has for us, is already in us.

Hebrews 10: 32. But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33. partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; (The trials they had endured) 34. for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. (Their attitude during these trials) 35. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: (The end result of going through such trials)

James 1 : 2. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3. knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Living bible.....Romans 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to be patient. 4 And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.



Question: What promises has God given you that seem to be a long time coming about?

Question : Abraham could have blamed Sarah for the delay in him receiving his promised child. Have you ever found yourself blaming someone else for the delay in receiving your promise from God?

Question : Has anyone tried to deliberately get up your nose lately? Do you find yourself unable to love certain people because of the way they talk and behave? How are you handling it?

Tip. If you don't like being pushed to your emotional limits by having people you can't get on with becoming a major part of your life, then never ask God to give you more patience. He doesn't put more in us, he draws more out of us.

Impatience is the rot that eats away at your cross.

