

When Change Takes Too Long (Genesis 15 - 16)
Seasons of Change sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 09.03.17

BIG IDEA: What God does in us while we wait is often more important than what we are waiting for.

How do I know if I'm supposed to wait on God, or if God is waiting on me?

1. Is what I'm considering in any way disobeying God's Word?

Is what I'm considering disobeying God's plan for my life, or anyone's life, as outlined in the Bible? Romans 10:17 says that faith comes from spending time in God's Word. God will give us the direction we need as we read, reflect, and meditate on His words.

2. Am I concerned more for God to be glorified in this change, or for me to get what I want?

Psalms 34, and others like Psalms 29 and 115, tell us in all things to give honor and glory to the Lord; that comes first.

3. Am I indifferent and willing to wait?

Whenever we get impatient and stop trusting in God, we start in the wrong direction and end up being ashamed.

4. Do I have a strong sense of peace about moving forward?

If we stick with what we know God has called us to do last, until we sense we are sinning by not moving forward, then that sense of peace will give us the confidence to move forward.

May we all seek to be as patient with God and His timing as He is with us!
May we learn how to desire to be indifferent rather than having our own way in our own timing.

MY NEXT STEP: *In what situations in my life do I need to trust in God's timing? What one thing can I do (or not do) this week to show God that I trust Him and His timing in this situation?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread our story in Genesis 15-16. As chapter 15 opens, Abraham expresses his frustration to God that he doesn't have a child. How does waiting reveal whether we are interested in God's glory or only in our own goals? What desires do you have that have yet to be fulfilled?
2. Review God's words to Abram in Genesis 15:6. What do you think this verse means? Read Romans 4, Galatians 3 and James 2 to see what these chapters reveal about the truth of Genesis 15:6. Do you believe that God is true to His word? In what ways does this affect how you trust Him with the details of your life?
3. Review in Genesis 16:1-3 how Abram & Sarai attempt to help God out when they think God is taking too long. Take a moment to think of when you have attempted to gain results in your own time without God. What were the results? When have you intentionally decided to wait on God's timing, and how did that situation work out?
4. Read Genesis 18 to see how God brings life change in His way and His timing. How does this incredible answer from God speak to you about waiting for change to come?
5. Read what Lamentations 3:25-27 and James 5:7-11 say about patience. How can our temptations to be impatient keep us from being effective followers of Jesus?
6. Next week we will continue this series on change by looking at what happens when God seeks to change your identity — how you see yourself. Feel free to read ahead in Genesis 17, and notice the significance of why God gave Abraham and Sarah new names and why that was significant in shaping who they would become. Share your discoveries with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card online this week at myGrace.church!

PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Laborers

Pray that God will reveal the dignity and honor of doing work as unto Christ; that workplaces would be a setting of safety, joy and friendship; for workers to be treated with justice and dignity; for employment for those who struggle to provide for their families; and for many to follow Christ and serve Him openly in the workplace with co-laborers.