

WAITING FOR ISAAC



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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had to wait for anything? Chances are you have. Waiting is a part of life but unfortunately, too many people don't want to wait because by nature, human beings are impatient creatures.

However, if you are going to get anything worthwhile in life and if you are going to get it from work then you have to wait because God doesn't work by our timing. I usually tell people that God doesn't wear our wrist watch and he is not going to do something when you want him to.

Contrary to what many say, God doesn't save the best for last; He always saves the best for the best times. He may not come when you want him to but he's never late. I have had to wait for some of the most important blessings in my life and the things I

want to share with you are principles that will help you wait especially when the outcome of the situation is not up to you.

I know God's promise to you will come to pass; it's only a matter of time. I know that like Abraham and Sarah who had to wait, they eventually laughed because their Isaac showed up.

This is for all my sisters who have to wait to be proposed to; for everyone that has ever asked 'what do you do while you wait? I hope this book will encourage you in your wait and make it all worthwhile when your Isaac shows up.

WAITING

Outside I hear the sound of celebration, but inside my heart it is sound of turmoil. Are those drums banging a part of the music or is it the sound of my head banging? I feel so unfulfilled.

This should be the happiest day of my life; today should be the happiest day of our marriage.

Congratulations I hear someone say for the umpteenth time, “Oh he looks like his father” another coos.

“His father?! I can definitely see Sarah’s eyes in this one” someone else overzealously pipes up.

*At that moment Abraham walks in (thankfully) “Sarah my darling, you look exhausted. Give **our son** to Hagar, your maid servant.” The words*

*pierce me like a dagger; our son... **our** son? Isn't that supposed to be a statement that should elicit joy?*

I move towards him "Abraham, why do I feel so unfulfilled? After all by law he is still my son, so why do I feel this way?"

"Sarah let's not start this again... but he is still a son. Right now let us just thank God that he gave us a seed, a son, an heir."

He means well. My dear old Abraham, he has stood by me all this while, all these years; he even agreed to this plan to make me happy but am I happy? Is he happy? More importantly is God happy?

"Abraham, my love, my honour, my lord, he is a son, yes but is he our son? Our son is a son of

promise; he is your child and my child, his name is Isaac ... but this is Ishmael in your arms. Ishmael is a son no doubt even named by Jehovah himself but is he the son?

...And that is my question to you today my dear sister. Is that man you are about to marry the man of promise or do you want to marry him because you cannot wait anymore? Are you justifying it so that you feel better? Are people even congratulating you but deep inside something just doesn't feel right?

I know this is a familiar story for many people. Yes it may have been paraphrased but I am sure that Sarah's feelings may not have been too far from these. If you ever have waited for anything then you know that if you have ever settled for less you would have felt the same way and the sad part is that you are probably not able to share it with

anyone.

However, the kind of waiting that I want to focus on is the kind that most women encounter when single and still trusting God to bring Mr. Right. If truth be told it can be hard to watch yourself grow older: imagine you are putting on makeup getting ready to rush off to work or church or wherever really and as you brush your hair you see a white strand. At first you think perhaps it is the weave attached to your hair but then you realize that the strand is attached to your scalp and not your weave. You suddenly realize that those laugh lines are not laugh lines anymore but wrinkles as they still remain long after the laughter is gone. You quickly check you realize that you are no longer 25 as at last count but now 30. Your biological clock is ticking faster and louder. The sad part is that unlike your male counterparts you cannot suddenly realize you are getting older, go out and propose to that person

that you fancy. Unfortunately not! You'll just have to wait till Mr. Right spots you and decides that he is ready to put an end to your waiting. And all this is dependent on if Mr. Right is actually that – Right for you. He may not be what you want or what you even expect. So will you settle for this? After all a man is a man or will you still hold on and wait for the real man God has set aside for you? The kind that he promised to give you from the very beginning or will you manage anyone that comes along?

ISHMAEL OR ISAAC

After waiting for so long, it seems the perfect man is finally here. He was introduced to you by a friend, a dear one perhaps even one that you were her maid of honour at her wedding. He is tall dark, handsome. His diction is beautiful, he has an amazing job and he drives the kind of car that you'll look good in seated in front seat. Just looking at him you know that the kids that both of you will have will be sight to behold. You're wondering where he has been all my life. He's perfect in every way ... or is he?

He's not quite born-again, is he? He talks the talk and everyone is applauding but you know that he doesn't walk the walk especially when no one is watching. Is this your Isaac or is this just Ishmael? Yes, Ishmael is a son as well but is he the one? You

and I know that there is just that comma. Isaac was a child of promise not a child gotten by natural connivance. You can try but it just won't fit.

Every day you see him, he is demanding for sex and you know that you shouldn't give in but he tells you "Everyone is doing it. Do you think you are still young? Don't want to get married?" Is that a proposal you hear? Of course not! But since you are in the desperate mode you probably thought that was a proposal. It is not. He just wants to confuse you into sleeping with him and since you think you are not getting any younger then you give in. Because you think it was your effort that brought him then you need to keep him by your effort so you sleep with him.

Let me quickly address this, he says everyone is doing it, No! Not everyone is doing it. What of the

millions of ladies that are keeping themselves for marriage? They are the odd few, right? Wrong! A dear friend of mine recently said to me, IT'S BETTER TO BE WEIRD THAN CHEAP. I couldn't agree more. Don't give in to that kind of patronizing rubbish and if you do then you will be feeding that wrong notion that everyone is doing it. Stand for the right thing.

He's not the kind of man that the bible says you should marry. He doesn't have the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22), he doesn't treat you with love (2nd Corinthians 13), he is not faithful (Proverbs 20:6), he is not spirit filled (Ephesians 5:18), but he is still a man and any rate, any man will do. At least people will stop laughing at you and you will cease to be a prayer point.

These days too many people are willing to sacrifice Isaac just to hold on to Ishmael but let me remind you that the fact that you have seen Ishmael only means that Isaac is closer than you think. Abraham waited for twenty –five 25 years and eight chapters of the bible before Isaac is born. I mean twenty years after he received the promise of a son from God (9 Gen 12:4 Gen 21:3). How did he wait? Let's find out in Romans 4:19 -21.

WAITING FOR ISAAC

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised he was able to perform.

Rom 4: 19-21

I believe that this is the perfect example of how to get through the waiting period. Let's look closely at it and get the principles that can help us.

1. **His faith did not weaken:** Abraham did not doubt that his Isaac was on the way. Isaac wasn't

there yet but that didn't affect the trust that he had in God to bring his Isaac to him. His faith didn't reduce as the days went by; he trusted just the same as he did when he got the promise

2. He did not consider his body: He didn't start to look at the fact that he was getting older. Choosing not to focus on the things he couldn't do made it easier for him to focus on what God would do. He didn't look at the fact that he and his wife were advancing in age. This kept him from getting desperate. Don't focus on your age; don't panic. Worry will only make you look older. You are not getting younger but that is not enough reason to settle for Ishmael.

3. He didn't stagger: Have you ever seen someone drunk? Staggering means to be unstable or unsteady. Don't get to that place where you think

if God is not answering you as fast as you want then you will need also try other means. Not staggering means that no matter how much you like him, you won't be tempted to do it by your power. Proposing to him is staggering; having sex with him is staggering, getting pregnant for him so he will marry you is definitely staggering it is a big sign of doubt. You think God is not doing what he promised as fast as you want so you will do it yourself.

4. **He believed:** Abraham took God at his word. He didn't questioningly doubt God. He just took it that if God said he will do it then it is done. He didn't shake-, he didn't panic, he just took it that if God said it, he will do it.....FINAL! I know that many of us are holding on to one promise or the other from God. For a single girl, it may be....**none shall lack her mate (Isaiah 34:16)** or for the woman trusting God for a child....**none shall be barren (Exodus 23:26)** or whatever your own

case may be, I know that there is a promise for you in the word. God's spoken word or written has the same power; God's word is his mouth or in your mouth is just as potent. Keep confessing it to yourself and keep believing it. As far as it is God's word it must come to pass (Isaiah 55:11).

5. He was strong in faith: Being strong in faith implies that there is weak faith. Wanting to hold on and you begin to see that all your friends are getting married, even your younger sister that always said out of respect for you that she wouldn't get married before you has gradually begun to change her mind as she cannot wait any longer. You have started attending weddings of people who call you aunty. Well that is when you need strong faith, strong faith is required in strong circumstances; when you don't feel like it but you still believe.

6. He gave Glory to God: When you don't know how to handle the waiting period, then give God glory. There are two levels of giving God glory: You can just be in praise. Keep thanking him for Isaac that you are sure that he will bring, or secondly, by being fully persuaded that as far as God has promised He is faithful, capable and willing to bring it to pass. That means you are telling God I trust you so I am not even going to try to take your glory by going about doing things my own way. I am going to get through this by total dependence on you because I know that is where my deliverance will come from. That's giving God glory; it is preserving the true state of the testimony, letting God do what he wants to do so that at the end of the day when you share the testimony it will be clear that it was all God.

CONCLUSION

It's never easy to wait. Imagine that you had a little child say about six years old and you are a multimillionaire and your child comes running in, crying that he wants a car and you immediately ask the driver to take him to the supermarket to get any toy car of his choice to which he promptly yells out 'No, I want a real car! A car like yours! 'What would you say? I'm guessing that because you are a good father you will tell your son, "I promise I will give you a car but you need to grow up first. I can almost hear him snivel "but I'm grown!" I know you'll just smile but no matter how wicked he thinks you are, I know you won't give him that car or he will kill himself with it. There's timing for everything. What makes it easier is, knowing who you are in this with.

If you know who God is and how he works, you will know that he loves you very much but he is more interested in helping you grow rather than keeping material things for you. After all, if he made himself vulnerable by giving his very best gift, his only son how will he not give us all things freely? (Rom 8:32).

If you know the God that promised and you recognize that he doesn't wear your wrist watch; neither is he your errand boy, but that he is the God of all flesh, the great and awesome God: the one that loves you and is interested in blessing you, you will learn to wait for him and I'm sure that in no time, just like Abraham and Sarah, you will experience a visitation (Gen 21:1) and in fullness of time hold that Isaac in your arms.

For the single girl that has held on and waited till she thinks she cannot wait any longer, I prophesy that like Mary, in an unexpected way and in a most

pleasantly surprising time, that you will receive a visitation from an angel {the human kind}, a man that will put an end to all the waiting and give you peace in your heart and cause you to laugh and all those that hear will laugh with you (Gen 21:6). I have an angel like that in my life today and I know that the same God is rich unto all. God bless you.

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