



Why Is It Taking So Long? Handling the Delays Genesis 16:1-2, 15-16; 17:1-5; 21:1-3, 5; 22:1-14

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John 10:10, “My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.” (TLB)

When there is a delay in the dream, I must...

- **Resist sin and shortcuts.**

Genesis 16:1-2, 15-16, “1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so 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....15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.” (NIV)

My Ishmael is the sin in my life that is born out of my impatience.

Romans 14:23, “...everything that does not come from faith is sin.” (NIV)

- **Realize my heart is being tested for obedience and maturity.**

Genesis 22:1, “...God tested Abraham...” (NIV)

A temptation is the desire to do that which is pleasant, even though it is wrong. It is used by Satan to bring out the worst in me.

A test is the need to do that which is right, even though it is unpleasant. It is used by God to bring out the best in me.

God uses delays to grow me enough so that I can become the kind of person who can fulfill the dream.

- **Remember what God can do.**

Genesis 17:1, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.’” (NIV)

- **Rely on what God has said.**

Genesis 17:2-5, “2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.’ 3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 ‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.’” (NIV)

Faith is facing the facts without being discouraged by them.

Genesis 21:1-3, 5

- **Re-surrender everything to God.**

Genesis 22:1-14

God did not want Isaac’s life; he wanted Abraham’s heart.

I do not necessarily have to give everything, but I do have to surrender everything.

What is my Isaac?

If I cannot surrender something to God, it is my god.

When I give my “Isaac” to God, he provides for my dream.

Hebrews 6:12, “...imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” (NIV)

God’s delays are not God’s denials. The delays of life require patience. They only make sense through trust and time.

Give Life How Will We Do It? Our Have To’s

We have to: Pray: “God, show me what you want me to do and give me the courage to do it.”

We have to: Believe it can be done.

We have to: Involve every family in our church.

We have to: Each be willing to sacrifice.

We have to: Be creative in finding ways for each of us to give more than we ever thought was possible.