

THE DANGER OF FLIRTING WITH THE ALTERNATIVE

Genesis 16–21 | John 14:6

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Introduction



This lesson is not about rebellion — it is about impatience



When G-d has spoken, delay tests trust



Most believers do not abandon faith — they adjust it



Blessing does not automatically mean approval

Introduction

This lesson is
about impatience,
not rebellion

Delay tests trust
when G-d has
already spoken

Most believers
compromise while
waiting

Blessing does not
automatically
mean approval

POINT ONE: When the Promise Is Clear but the Wait Is Hard



Genesis 16 — the promise was already spoken



Sarah interpreted delay instead of waiting on G-d



The alternative looked practical, not sinful



Impatience produced a substitute

Point One — What This Teaches Us

Delay is one of the greatest tests of trust

Alternatives are born when waiting becomes uncomfortable

Most spiritual compromise begins with impatience

POINT TWO: Blessing Is Real, but Covenant Is Specific

Genesis 17 — Ishmael was blessed, Isaac carried covenant

Blessing answers: Can this live?

Covenant answers: What is this for?

Blessing sustains life; covenant advances redemption

Point Two

— Covenant Logic

Blessing can be broad;
covenant is precise

Growth does not equal
authorization

Redemption advances
through what G-d has
spoken

POINT THREE: G-d's Faithfulness Is Not His Approval

G-d remained faithful to
Abraham

He did not revise covenant to
include Ishmael

Providence governs outcomes
without excusing choices

Providence Explained

Providence is not
approval of every decision

Providence governs
outcomes, not choices

G-d redeems situations
He did not initiate

Sovereignty does not
erase accountability

Three Things G-d Shows Us About Himself

Faithful even
when we fail

Careful with what
He promised

Committed to His
choice