

Running with the Giants
Sarah
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Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of **witnesses**, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Genesis 15:1-6 Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “**Do not be afraid**, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.” But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.” Then the Lord said to him, “**No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.**” Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Key Thought: For when you can’t understand God and impatience threatens to overwhelm you... “Don’t complicate God’s promise with your solution.”

Trust God

- ✓ Even if it takes a long time.

Genesis 16:1-2 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; 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.

- ✓ Even if it seems ridiculous.

Genesis 18:10-14 Then the Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and **Sarah your wife will have a son.**” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”

- ✓ Even if those around you don’t.

Genesis 21:6-7 Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Hebrews 11:11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. In the end...God is faithful...even when we doubt...God will show up...

Sarah's Words of Encouragement...

1. Don't try to get ahead of God when He isn't moving fast enough for you.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient...

Key Thought: The secret to patience is doing something else in the meantime.

Psalms 37:7 (NLT) Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

2. When you must wait, focus on what's happening in you, not what's happening to you.

Romans 8:24-25 (MSG) That is why **waiting does not diminish us**, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the **longer we wait**, the **larger we become**, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Key Thought: Patience isn't the ability to wait but how you act while you are waiting.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

3. Even our very best cannot possibly compare to anything God has in mind.

Isaiah 64:4 (MSG) Since before time began no one has ever imagined, No ear heard, no eye seen, a God like you who works for those who wait for him.

Walk Away: God has a much better plan for your life than you have for yourself.