

Discuss

In the Bible, there seems to be a pattern of God calling someone to do something, but they have to demonstrate extraordinary levels of faith and trust in Him that is almost comical. That often led to the laughter of disbelief.

- What do the Biblical examples of God calling someone to do something while demonstrating extraordinary levels of faith reveal to you about God’s character and how He relates to us?

When it comes to prayer and asking God for things, God’s timing doesn’t always work like we expect or want it to. Most of us want our requests answered immediately and oftentimes we try to take things into our own hands. Abraham and Sarah did the same thing while waiting for God to fulfill His promise to them:

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, ‘The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.’ And Abram agreed with Sarai’s proposal. So Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)” ([Genesis 16:1-3, NLT](#))

- Have you ever tried to take things into your own hands instead of waiting for God?
- How can you work on growing in your patience for God?

The laughter of disbelief is part of our relationship with God and the play in life. It’s part of what helps us grow in our faith. We need to learn to laugh with God even in disbelief, but anchor that disbelief with faith that calls you to trust and action.

“Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him...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.’” ([Genesis 21:1-7, NIV](#))

- Have you laughed with God recently?
- Isn’t there one thing you have read in the Bible or felt prompted by God to do something that was faith challenging?
- What steps can you take to show God your faith in Him and what He’s calling you to trust Him with?

Next Steps

Reflect on your relationship with God and anything He’s asking you to do right now. Is He asking you to give generously or serve selflessly or take a relational risk or to wait expectantly with faith? Take time to laugh with Him this week about it, and do what He’s asking you to do.

May 10 & 12: [The Gospels: Big Picture Bible Study](#)

May 15: [Habitat for Humanity](#) and [Second Harvest Food Bank Serve Day](#)

May 17 & 19: [TeamLife Online](#)

Continued Reading

Read Genesis [12:1-5](#); [15:1-6](#); [16:1-3](#); 17:[1-6](#), [15-16](#), [17-19](#), [21-22](#); [18:10-15](#); [21:1-7](#).

Prayer

God, thank you for what you are doing in this world and how you relate with us and invite us into an adventure of faith. Help us to trust you and let that trust lead to action led by you. And help us to laugh along the way as we watch your amazing faithfulness.