

Faith is not just believing God's promises; it's trusting God's timing.

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." ² 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. ³ You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir." ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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!" ⁶ And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Genesis 15:1-6

Yet by Genesis 15:

- Abram is around 85 years old. About 10 years have passed since God gave Abram the promises in chapter 12. And while God has certainly blessed Abram and protected Abram, it is not as though everything has gone smoothly.
- Sarai remains barren. And this was the first promise God gave Abram, and the promise that meant the most to Abram.
- God's promise appears impossible.

Point 1: Faith Doesn't Ignore Honest Questions

² But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? "

Genesis 15:2

⁷Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:7

Faith is not the absence of questions.

Faith brings those questions to God.

Abram's question isn't rebellion. It's a relationship.

Point 2: God's Delays Are Not God's Denials

⁵Then 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!"

Genesis 15:5

God often gives promises long before He gives fulfillment.

Waiting is often God's workshop where faith grows.

Point 3: Impatience Creates Problems

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. ²So 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. ³ 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

⁴ So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant, she treats me with contempt. The LORD will show who's wrong—you or me!"

⁶ Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

Genesis 16:4-6

Whenever we rush ahead of God, we create complications God never intended.

Point 4: God remains faithful even when we fail.

The story isn't:

"Perfect people receive God's promises."

The story is:

"Faithful God keeps His promises."
