

“WAITING” FAITH

Today’s lesson comes from our Wednesday night bible study on the Plan of God taken from the Greek word **prothesis** (purpose) [Plan of God] in (2 Tim.1:9).

In our Wednesday study of the Plan of God, we are learning that “Waiting Faith” can be as important as “Walking by Faith” in the life of a spiritually advancing believer.

In this lesson, we will study three aspects of Waiting Faith

We will use the life of Abraham to illustrate the mechanics of Waiting Faith. This is a bonus lesson for our Wednesday night bible students

1. Waiting faith is applied during the lapse of time between receiving the knowledge of a promise of God and the actual promise itself.

(Eccl.3:1) “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”
(Eccl.3:11) “He has made everything appropriate in its time.”

Principle of the Plan of God: The Plan of God is so designed as to include all events and actions related to their causes and conditions both in heaven and on earth (Matt.6:10; Eph.3:14-15; 6:12).

This lapse of time is called PERFECT TIMING in the Plan of God. Therefore, the application of Waiting Faith is very important during this time.

Unfortunately, this lapse of time often causes believers to question God, His word, and His Plan as it relates to their lives (Rom.4:17-21; Gen.17:5).

2. This lapse of time in the Plan of God should cause the believer to focus on the seriousness of Waiting Faith and his relationship with the Lord.

This lapse of time challenges the believer’s confidence in God, His word and Plan. This was true with Abraham and caused him to consider Lot and Ishmael and Eliezer as stand-in heirs. Abraham was operating under the worldly principle - "God helps those who help themselves." Abraham operated from it as if it was a doctrinal principle rather than a worldly principle. There was absolute failure in Waiting Faith during these years.

This is what happens in your soul when you lose hope in God and His word and Plan – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom.15:13)

3. Often we become impatience and disappointed with God, His word and Plan because of this lapse of time.

This was true of Abraham. It caused him to consider worldly thinking as a solution to what God had promised “That your faith should **not rest** on the wisdom of men, **but** on the power of God.” (1 Cor.2:5; **Rom.4:21**)

Over a period of 24 years, Abraham went from impatience to doubts to despair to impossible. **Most of our disappointments in life are self-induced due to misplaced expectations.** If Abraham could lose his hope in God over this lapse of time regarding the promise of God, how would he handle the lost of the fulfilled promise? We know the answer if he remained in the same stage of spiritual growth. Therefore God must wait on his spiritual capacity to develop in order to give him the promised blessing (Isa.30:18; 2 Pet.3:18; Gen.22; Lam.3:25-26; Ps.130:5)