

SERIES: GENESIS
GOD'S PATIENCE
GENESIS 17

Psalm 86:15

2 Peter 3:9 -

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come **to repentance**.

- 1. God's patience is seen in the transformation of Sarai from being a failed problem solver to the one who would accept God's solution for His promise.**

I Peter 3:4-6

Genesis 17

15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name **Sarai** [emphasis on her being the ruling lady of the household], but Sarah [princess, leading mother of family of families] shall be her name.

16 And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

Genesis 16:2

So Sarai said to Abram, "**See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children.** Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 17:5

"No longer shall your name be called Abram [exalted father], but your name shall be Abraham [father of a multitude]; for I have made you a father of many nations."

Genesis 15

5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**"

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

2. God's patience with Abraham can be seen as He transforms him from one who listened to his wife to one who lives by faith in the Lord and His promise.

Genesis 16:2; Romans 4:16-22

Genesis 17

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, [filled with joy] and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

19 Then God said: "No [conservative scholars say it is better translated, "**most assuredly**"], Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac [laughter]; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

22 Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

Abraham is said to be firm in his hope [Romans 4:18] that strengthened his faith in the Lord.

Abraham was not weak in his faith [Romans 4:18] in spite of knowing his body "was good as dead," and Sarah's womb the same. Through this time, he grew stronger in his faith.

Genesis 17

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, **21** and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

22 And therefore "**it was accounted to him for righteousness.**"

What has the testimony of God's patience been for you in your life?