

Faith To Wait On God

Hebrews 11:11

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I. Introduction

- A. Sometimes the results of our faith are not manifested immediately but we must wait a long time before it comes to pass. A long faith journey will not always be smooth or easy but will take twists and turns.
- B. Sometimes our faith journey goes like this –
 - It starts with **disbelief** – We cannot believe what God has promised us. *Example is Sarah laughing when she first heard the promise.*
 - Then it moves to **disobedience** – We believe the promise but think God needs our help. *Example is Sarah giving Hagar to Abraham.*
 - But it settles at **determination** – We believe the promise and believe in the promisor. *Example is Sarah's faith that is described here in Hebrews.*
- C. The writer of Hebrews ascribes to Sarah the same type of faith that her husband Abraham displayed. She is the first woman mentioned in the hall of faith.

II. Relies On The Promisor (“...She judged Him faithful who had promised.”)

- A. **Faith's Definition** – A firm persuasion, conviction, or strong belief. Faith is based on fact and not imagination. Hebrews 11:1 uses the words *substance* and *evidence* in defining faith. These are factual terms.
- B. **Faith's Dependency** – The most important thing about faith is not what you believe but whom you believe in. If you believe the right thing but trust the wrong person you are still in trouble.
 - 1. Sarah considered the matter and viewed/ regarded God as being trustworthy. She believed that God was able to fulfill His promise.

III. Restores Past Seasons (“...When she was past age...”)

- A. **Faith's Difficulty** – Sarah was past the age of child bearing. In fact, she was about 90 years old.
 - 1. Life has different seasons and she was well past the season of child bearing. *Someone in this church today faces the difficulty that your season of blessing has past.*
- B. **Faith's Determination** – But despite the circumstances she still believed that God was able.
 - 1. Because of her faith God restored her season of child bearing. He turned her biological clock backwards.

IV. Results In Pregnancy (“...Received strength to conceive seed and bore a child...”)

- A. **Received Strength to Conceive** – God gave her strength to receive or hold on to the seed. Without God's strength she would not be able to hold on.
 - 1. The seed contains the germ of new fruit. The seed contained the promises of God for a child, offspring, and descendent.
- B. **Resulted in Child Birth** – She not only got pregnant but also gave birth to the promised child.
 - 1. Her faith, though it had to wait, was rewarded with a child. And she lived about 33 years after childbirth to enjoy the blessing.