



The Uncomfortable Call Series

The Call of Abraham

Day 3: The Call to Wait When Heaven Is Silent

Because faith grows deepest when God seems quiet.

Key Scripture: Genesis 16:1–6 & 17:1–5 (NLT)

“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. 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. 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!’ 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 17:1–5 (NLT)

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, ‘I am El-Shaddai - God Almighty. Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.’ At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, ‘This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.’”

Context: When the Silence Tests Your Faith

Ten long years had passed since Abram first heard the call in Haran. Ten years since he left everything familiar, stepped into obedience, and walked through deserts of uncertainty. He had seen God protect him in Egypt, deliver him in battle, and prosper his household. He had built altars and experienced victory. But still, one promise lingered unfulfilled - the promise of a son. He was now in Canaan, the land God had shown him, yet was still childless. Years of obedience had produced progress, but not the promise. Time was moving, bodies were ageing, and faith was being stretched.

Sarai was childless, and being without children in that culture was more than physical; it was social shame. To be without a child meant to be without legacy. It was a slow ache that haunted both of them - especially when surrounded by servants, cattle, and possessions but no heir to inherit them.

And then came the silence. No visions. No fresh instructions. No visible movement from heaven. Faith had carried them out of Ur and through Canaan, but waiting would now test whether they truly trusted God or just His timing. When heaven seems silent, human reasoning gets loud. Sarai's logic sounded reasonable: In Genesis chapter 16 and verse 2, she cried, "The Lord has prevented me from having children." She didn't stop believing in the promise - she just tried to help it happen.

What started as impatience soon became interference. Sarai offered Hagar, and Abram agreed. The silence had not only tested their patience - it had also exposed their humanity. This is where many of us stumble. We start strong in faith but falter in waiting. We leave Ur with conviction, but we build Ishmaels out of frustration. Yet even here - in their impatience - God was still faithful.

Years later, when Abram was ninety-nine, God reappeared and reintroduced Himself, by declaring: "I am El-Shaddai - God Almighty." (Genesis chapter 17, verse 1). God hadn't forgotten. He hadn't changed His mind. He was simply preparing Abram to see that His promise required transformation - not just of circumstance, but of identity. You see, waiting is not wasted time; it's the workshop of faith.

Focus of the Day: Faith That Waits Still Works

The silence between promise and fulfilment is not divine neglect - it's divine development. In waiting, faith moves from excitement to endurance. Abram and Sarai's decision to act prematurely teaches a painful truth: when we try to rush God, we usually birth something that later competes with what He's promised.

Ishmael was not God's rejection; he was the result of human impatience. Yet even then, God's mercy never withdrew. He blessed Ishmael, according to Genesis Chapter 17 and verse 20, but God's covenant remained with Isaac, the child of promise.

When Abram was finally ready to receive the full promise, God changed his name. The man who once tried to make it happen in his own strength became a man wholly dependent on God's ability. Faith that waits is faith that works - even when nothing seems to be happening. In the silence, God was shaping Abram into Abraham. Every year of delay was chiselling character, deepening humility, and stripping self-reliance. The longer the wait, the deeper the work.

Why We Struggle to Wait When Heaven Is Silent

We may love God's promises, but we dislike His pace. Waiting exposes what we really trust - His word or our own wisdom. Here's why waiting feels so hard:

- **Because silence feels like absence.** When we don't hear Him, we assume He's not working. But silence is where roots grow - unseen but alive.
- **Because control feels safer than surrender.** Like Sarai, we want to help God deliver His promise. But obedience and interference don't mix.
- **Because delay bruises identity.** Sarai believed her worth was tied to her womb. Waiting often confronts where we find our value.
- **Because we measure God's faithfulness by speed, not steadfastness.** God isn't slow - He's strategic. His timing guards both the promise and your readiness to handle it.

- **Because patience feels passive.** Yet biblical waiting isn't doing nothing - it's staying faithful while God finishes what He started.

Waiting is not punishment; it's preparation for what can't yet be carried.

Detailed Scripture Breakdown: Genesis 16:1–6 & 17:1–5 (NLT)

- **Genesis chapter 16 verse 1**, says, “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not been able to bear children...” This verse captures the human condition of limitation. God’s promises are often delivered through impossible circumstances so that the outcome points back to Him alone.
- **In verse 2, we hear the musings of Sarai’s heart.** “Perhaps I can have children through her.” When faith fades, we start offering God our alternatives. Sarai’s idea was socially acceptable but spiritually short-sighted. Compromise often looks logical in seasons of silence.
- **In verse of Genesis chapter 16 and verse 4, we read,** “So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant.” The plan worked - but not in the way they hoped. Partial obedience produces temporary relief but long-term complication.
- **Verse 6 confirm the consequence of this action.** It says, “Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.” Every shortcut creates collateral damage. When we manipulate what God means to manifest, people often get hurt.
- **In Genesis chapter 17 and verse 1**, it says, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, ‘I am El-Shaddai...’” El-Shaddai means God Almighty - the All-Sufficient One. God revealed His name at the moment Abram most needed to remember His nature. When you reach your limit, God reveals His limitless.
- **Verse 5 of this chapter shows the fruit of waiting.** “Your name will no longer be Abram... you will be called Abraham.” Name changes in Scripture mark transformation. Abram’s identity shifted from “exalted father” to “father of many nations.” God renamed him not after the fulfilment, but before it - proof that heaven calls you complete even while you’re still becoming.

What We Can Learn for Our Calling Today

- **Delays are not denials** - they are divine strategies. Waiting seasons build capacity for the promise to be sustained.
- **Faith must mature beyond feelings.** Silence is a classroom where spiritual resilience is developed.
- **God will never fulfil His promise through methods that contradict His character.** Impatience may birth results, but only obedience births covenant.
- **The promise doesn't need your performance - it needs your patience.** When you stop striving, you make room for God to be El-Shaddai in your story.
- **Transformation precedes fulfilment.** God changed Abram's name before giving him Isaac, reminding us that inward change always comes before outward blessing.

Key Themes

- Faith doesn't fail in silence; it's formed in it.
- Waiting is not wasted - it's worship in motion.
- Impatience births alternatives; obedience births legacy.
- When God seems quiet, He's still speaking through the wait.
- God's promises outlast your impatience.

Practical Application

- **Step 1. Revisit the Promise.** Write down what God has spoken over your life. Rehearse it in prayer until peace replaces anxiety.
- **Step 2. Recognise Your Hagar Moments.** Where have you tried to help God? Repent and release control — He doesn't need your assistance, only your agreement.
- **Step 3. Reframe the Silence.** Start seeing silence as a signal that God is still preparing something. Thank Him for working behind the scenes.

- **Step 4. Renew Your Faith Language.** Speak life over waiting seasons. Replace “nothing’s happening” with “God is still working.”
- **Step 5. Rest in El-Shaddai.** Pray using this name - “God Almighty, You are more than enough.” Waiting becomes easier when you trust His sufficiency.

Prayer

Father, Thank You for being faithful even when I grow weary in waiting. Teach me to see Your silence as sacred, not empty. When I’m tempted to rush Your timing, remind me that impatience only complicates what You’ve already perfected. Help me to rest in Your promise and resist the urge to create my own plan. Renew my hope when discouragement whispers that time has run out. Transform me while I wait, so I’m ready for what You’ve already prepared. You are El-Shaddai - the God who is more than enough. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Declarations

- My waiting is not wasted - God is working in the unseen.
- I refuse to birth what God hasn’t promised.
- I will trust God’s timing over my own timeline.
- My identity is secure, even in the silence.
- The promise is certain because the Promiser is faithful.

Final Reflection

Abraham’s greatest act of faith wasn’t just leaving Ur - it was waiting in Canaan. The years of silence were not punishment but preparation. Heaven may seem quiet, but God’s promises never sleep. Every waiting season is an altar where faith is refined. So, hold steady, stay faithful, and remember - even in silence, God is still speaking through the slow work of transformation.

Tomorrow in Day 4, we explore The Call to Surrender What You Love.

Blessings as you meditate, hear what the Lord is saying, and act in obedience.