**VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY: PASTOR WILLIAM A. LEE, JR.**

**SERIES: “SILENT KILLERS”**

**SUBJECT: “IMPATIENCE”**

**SUB-TITLE: “WAITING ON THE GENUINE BLESSING”**

**TEXT: GENESIS 16:1-11**

**Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not borne him any *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See here, the Lord has prevented me from bearing *children*. I am asking you to go in to [the bed of] my maid [so that she may bear you a child]; perhaps I will obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to Sarai *and* did as she said. 3 After Abram had lived in the land of Canaan ten years, Abram’s wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian [maid], and gave her to her husband Abram to be his [secondary] wife. 4 He went in to [the bed of] Hagar, and she conceived; and when she realized that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress [regarding Sarai as insignificant because of her infertility]. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “May [the responsibility for] the wrong done to me [by the arrogant behavior of Hagar] be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, and when she realized that she had conceived, I was despised *and* looked on with disrespect. May the Lord judge [who has done right] between you and me.” 6 But Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your maid is *entirely* in your hands *and* subject to your authority; do as you please with her.” So Sarai treated her harshly *and* humiliated her, and Hagar fled from her. 7 But the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, on the road to [Egypt by way of] Shur. 8 And He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where did you come from and where are you going?” And she said, “I am running away from my mistress Sarai.” 9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Go back to your mistress, and submit [c]humbly to her authority.” 10 Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, “I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.” 11 The Angel of the Lord continued, “Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall name him Ishmael (God hears), Because the Lord has heard *and* paid attention to your persecution (suffering).**

**INTRODUCTION**: A daily essential quality and a key to a happy life is found in this thing called patience.

**QUESTION**: When considering keys to a happy life, do we ever think of patience as one of them? Would you agree with this statement as was giving by a psychologist or do you disagree. If so why?

Having patience means being able to wait calmly in the face of frustration or adversity, so anywhere there is frustration or adversity—i.e., nearly everywhere—we must learn to walk in and be possessed by this thing called patience.

**Luke 21:19**

**In your patience possess ye your souls.**

**Luke 21:19-21**

**19 By your [patient] endurance [empowered by the Holy Spirit] you will gain your souls.(Amplified Version)**

And while we are told that patience is a virtue, the truth of the matter is that the world in which we are living does not see it that way. The world doesn’t see patience as a position of strength but rather as a position of weakness, of wanting, and of lack. I mean, powerful people don’t have to wait; they just pick up the phone, bark out an order and people will scramble and turn the world upside down to get them what they want as quickly as possible. In their world waiting is for the powerless not the powerful. And that is a fundamental **misunderstanding** of patience because the truth of the matter is that when we are patient it allows us to take back control over our capricious and unstable world. It allows us the power to plant that control firmly within ourselves. Patience does not give us the power over circumstances, no, patience allows us to control and have power over ourselves in the midst of those circumstances and because our world has forgotten the importance of patience we are living in an out of control, full speed ahead, get out of my way or get run over society that is angry, unhinged and always on edge because we want it all, we want it here and we want it now.

 We are now conditioned, through the advance of technology to be impatient people. Today, we are blessed with barely having to wait for anything to get things done. This is the instant, microwave it, drive through, email it, fax it, PO Express it, Fed-Ex it, absolutely positively has to be there overnight age and even with all of that we are still laboring, researching and inventing more and more ways to avoid the whole experience of waiting as impatience and rushing characterizes our very mode of living. And because of this we are unwilling and failing to recognize that God is still very much at work and that He more often works through a thing called process**.** That is God works through a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end. Most of the time God works brick by brick and step by step and will not be rushed by anybody. And when it comes to receiving a promise from God it will require that we develop that something that we don’t like to develop. That thing called patience. It will require us to wait on the genuine blessing. **WAIT ON THE GENUINE BLESSING!** One of the things about the silent killers that we are looking at is that most of them are not necessarily sinful. We would never hang our head in shame if we ever got caught up in these silent killers. We wouldn’t turn anyone out of the church for being for having low self esteem, or for struggling with anger issues but yet they still have a profound impact upon us. And Impatience is one of those. While on the surface it may appear to be harmless it is something that can actually have a great impact on our everyday lives as well as on our future. Impatience can and has stopped many people from being recipients of the blessings of God simply because they decided that they no longer wanted to wait. Impatience has caused many people to veer off the road toward their destiny simply because they became weary of delay. When we come to our text we find Abram and his wife Sarai, whose names would later be changed to Abraham and Sarah, about to fall victim to the silent killer called impatience. In a sense this would surprise all of us when we consider the tremendous qualifications and resume that this man of God possessed. He had uttered no prophecies, wrote no book, sang no songs, gave no laws yet in the long list of Bible saints he alone is spoken of as the “father of the faithful and the friend of God.” This mans level of faith is unsurpassed, as he had left everything behind to follow after his God. He had given up certainty for uncertainty, he surrendered the seen for the unseen and went out not knowing wither he went. He was a man who, up until this text, was a model of patience as he was waiting on the promises of an eternal God. Yet, as great as he was like all biblical characters and all of us his life was subject to failures. His character, just like the sun, had spots. We know of course how on two occasions he lied about being married to Sarah endangering her life and now he is about to allow the impatience of both he and Sarai to convince him to engage in a scheme that will end up impacting him the rest of his life and impacting the world today. At this time he along with the First Lady of Faith, now find themselves in the familiar place that we all have come to know as the waiting room. He was now 86 years old and She was 76 and they still did not have a child. They had ran out of hope that the promise would be accomplished in the form that they first understood it. It is here that they yield to the silent killer called impatience and seemingly try to help God out in bringing the promise to pass. We want to take a look at the effects of this thing called impatience through our story today and see how it can impact our lives both present as well as future when we fail to wait on the genuine blessing.

**I. IMPATIENCE CAN CAUSE US TO GO AHEAD OF GOD**

The Christian Journey is One that Must Involve a God Walk, we are followers of Christ

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

**Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**

God is Before Us- God must take the lead

**Psalms 23**

**1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

He Leads and I follow Because He knows the way of safety and

provision

God is Beside Us

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

God Wants us to Have Companionship and relationship with

Him. God is also positionally Behind us but will not follow us.

[Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/psalms-23-6/)

God is not God if He has to follow us. How often do we make our plans

and then invite God to join us.

**Reflection**: Can you think of an occasion in which you charted your

course and then hoped that God would join it?

**Sarai Decides to Go Ahead of God**

Sarai is now in a familiar place calledThe Waiting Room. It had been

10-11 years since God gave Abram the Promise. Think about it: 11

years- 4015 days, 96,360 hours, 5,781,600 minutes 346,896,000 seconds

Sarai has had enough.

**Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not borne him any *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See here, the Lord has prevented me from bearing *children*. I am asking you to go in to [the bed of] my maid [so that she may bear you a child]; perhaps I will obtain children by her.”**

Sarai’ makes the Mistake of trying to bring the Lord into her plan instead of getting a plan from the Lord. She begins the Conversation by injecting religious language into her ungodly scheme. Watch out for these people who try to use the name of God to manipulate you to do what they want you to do. This is a tactic that the enemy uses himself in that whenever we are about to go ahead of God he tries to convince us that God is in it.

Sarai tries to do a Godly thing using ungodly means

**Principle:** Never Violate Gods Law and Ways to try to accomplish

something in His name.

**WORLDLY PHILOSOPHY- THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS**

\* You don’t have to cheat to get a promotion when its God

\* You don’t have to lie to get ahead when it’s God

\* You don’t have to resort to dirty tactics and dirty politics when it’s God

\* You don’t have tear somebody else down to build yourself up when it’s God.

\* You don’t have to fornicate to keep him or her when it’s God

\* You don’t have to move in and shack up before they put a ring on it when it’s God

\* I don’t have to play kissy kissy, kiss somebodies ring, lose my dignity, beg and manipulate when it is God!!!!

 **WHAT GOD HAS FOR ME IS FOR ME!!!**

When I am Walking With God and Not Ahead of Him I am also Walking

in His Word.

**Psalm 1**

**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

Go Gods Way and Do it God’s Way

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**Psalm 37:23-25**

**23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.**

 **DO NOT MAKE PLANS TO GO AHEAD OF HIM!!!**

**Example:** The Cloud in the wilderness.

**SARAI DECIDES THAT SHE IS TIRED OF WAITING AND DEVELOPS A PLAN TO GO AHEAD OF GOD**

**II. IMPATIENCE CAN CAUSE US TO TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS**

**Question:** Has anyone here ever tried to fix a problem in your life and made the situation worse.

It is not our duty to aid God in the accomplishment of His Promise. Our Duty is to wait.

**Wait**- To remain, to expect eagerly, to continue steadfastly, to look for with a view of receiving. The expression of the Christian’s hope which includes the elements of patience and hope. To wait with patience and expectancy. to wait for the fulfillment of an event.

**Galatians 5:22**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**Longsufffering-** To suffer long. Waiting is Hard in and of itself. But even harder when you are in pain or distress.

James 1:2-3

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

2 My brothers and sisters, be very happy when you are tested in different ways. 3 You know that such testing of your faith produces endurance.

God will allow things into our lives to see if we will trust Him and wait on Him or take matters into our own hands.

**When there’s nothing happening in your outside world, that’s when God is working the most on your inside world.**

**Sarai- Waiting and Hurting-**

Barrenness- She is suffering the Shame that came with being Barren in those days. It was considered a curse: People whispering and looking at her funny. Plus deep down she probably felt like she had failed her husband Abraham and was a hindrance to him receiving the Promise.

Her Desperation cause her to come up with a desperate scheme

I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai (didn’t I tell you that Abram was a man). And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

**“Impatience can cause wise people to do foolish things.” (Janette Oke)**

THE DEVIL CONVINCED HER TO DO THAT WHICH WOULD GIVE INSTANT GRATIFICATION.

“We live in a world of instant gratification, the world of the quick fix.” (Rachel Taylor)

Instant gratification blinds us by focuses on the now and when God is not running on our schedule it causes us to take matters into our own hands.

Psalms 37:7

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Sarai decides to help God out

And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived:and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Sarai then becomes angry at her own actions. Sarai takes her frustration and begins to take it out on Hagar. Often times we go ahead of God and then end up getting mad at both God and others because of something we devised with our own hands. We start looking to blame.

**Illustration**: A little boy went to repair his toy plane and decided to use a new super glue that he found at the hardware store. He knew that the glue needed to sit for two hours before trying to fly the plane but decided that after one hour that he couldn’t wait anymore. He tried to fly the plane and not only did the glued pieces fail but the entire plane ended up crashing and ruining more parts. The angry boy brought the glue back to the store to complain and the owner said, Don’t be mad at me, you should’ve left it alone and let the glue dry. Sometimes we need to leave our hands to ourselves and let the glue dry.

 LEAVE IT ALONE!

Job 14:14

If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven…” -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Psalms 31:15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**III. IMPATIENCE CAN BIRTH FUTURE PROBLEMS**

When we fail to Wait on God and take matters into our own hands we run the risk of birthing things that can haunt us for years to come or even for a lifetime. God is not going to force us to wait on Him but one way or another we will end up waiting on Him. Either we will wait on Him in the beginning before we move and not move without him. Or we will wait on Him to deliver us out of the trouble that we created because we went ahead of Him.

**THE BENEFITS OF WAITING**- God is like the satellite that can view where we are headed. And, **o**ne of the things that we don’t understand about the Laws of God is that God gave them to us from the advantage point of divine wisdom as well as foreknowledge. that is, that He knows the potential of certain decisions and how they can effect out future so He gave the Laws in order to protect us from ourselves, each other as well as the harm violating them can do to our future.

Fools Rush In- For every genuine blessing the enemy has a counterfeit. The way that the enemy fools us into taking the counterfeit is by getting us to rush. Be careful about anyone who is trying to rush you to make any decision.

BECAUSE COUNTERFEITS ARE EASY TO GET INTO BUT HARD TO GET OUT OF

**Reflection**: Can anyone think of moments in your life that in which God allowed a a delay. Even though you were frustrated at the moment you look back on it and are grateful?

Birthing an Ismael

Ismael Represents the bad seeds that we sow when we go ahead of God and take matters into our own hands.

Sarai thinks, I will just get rid of her

And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee:I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: (tries to blame Hagar) the Lord judge between me and thee. But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

God said- it won’t be that easy

And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

Sarai and Abraham even after Having Isaac would have to still have Ismael living in their house.

 THEN THIER DECISION WOULD MULTIPLY

**I’M SURE THAT THERE WERE MANY DAYS WHEN ABRAHAM AND SARAH WOULD THINK TO THEMSELVES, IF I HAD ONLY WAITED AND BEEN PATIENT.**

**“What good has impatience ever brought? It has only served as the mother of mistakes and the father of irritation.” (Steve Moraboli)**

**“The common man prays, 'I want a cookie right now!' And God responds, 'If you'd listen to what I say, tomorrow it will bring you 100 cookies.” (Criss Jami)**

Psalms 27:14- Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31- But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

[***The only thing harder than waiting on God, is wishing that you had!***](https://www.azquotes.com/quote/1352258) ***(***[***Steven Furtick***](https://www.azquotes.com/author/19553-Steven_Furtick)***)***