

A TIME FOR WAITING

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As I sat in my doctor's office the words rang like a gong in my head. Baby. Fluid. Kidneys. We were expecting our second child and an ultrasound had revealed that the baby had fluid in the kidneys. There were possible explanations (including chromosomal defect) and we would monitor it with monthly ultrasounds. And so we waited. Each ultrasound revealed the same result, the fluid on the kidneys was still there and we would likely not know why until the baby was born. Would it be a perfectly healthy baby or a baby perfect for us with unique challenges? We would have to wait and see.

Please read Hebrews 6:13-20

Waiting is not usually easy for anyone and Abraham can testify to that. If you are familiar with his story you will remember that he and his wife Sarah wanted a child. God assured Abraham with a promise that one day he would have many descendants and that his offspring would bless many nations.

In the early stages of waiting, Abraham demonstrated great faith but as time went on his faith wavered and in a lapse of faith a decision was made to take matters into his own hands with great consequences. But eventually Abraham would return to faith and wait.... for a long time. Days turned to weeks, months and years. Abraham continued to wait and watched others receive what he longed for (his brother Nahor had 12 sons!)

But God did fulfill his promise and after 25 years of waiting, at the ripe old age of 100, a son was born to Abraham and Sarah and they named him Isaac (which means 'one who laughs'). And hope was restored. It would be another 62 years before Abraham would see his first grandchild! I am sure Abraham wondered how old he would have to be to have as many descendants as the stars in the sky!

Are you willing to wait for 25 years for God to fulfill a promise? What about 700 years? The people of Israel were promised a messiah, one whose blood would bless the people of every nationality. Entire generations came and went holding onto hope found in the promise of a kingdom that would stand forever.

We know today that the Messiah did come, in the form of a baby, more than 2000 years ago and each Christmas we celebrate the fulfillment of an ancient promise that continues to bring hope and peace in this modern age. As followers of Jesus we continue to wait. We wait for the new promise of Jesus' return. Not unlike the ancient Israelites, we long for Jesus to come and make sense of a chaotic, faithless and often antagonistic world, to restore our world to God's original design.

In the face of life's uncertainty and discouragements we must wait with faith. Storms of life may swirl around us but we have hope that serves as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

If you know our family you will be aware that our second child was born perfectly healthy (in fact, she is the one we have placed hope in to support us in our old age!). But as we waited there was fear, anxiety, and concern as we wondered if we were equipped to handle potential challenges coming our way. The waiting wasn't easy but our faith held firm in the one who always fulfills His promises.