

May Teaching Series

Shortcutting the Will of God

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Key Scripture: Genesis 16:1-6

“ So Sarai said to Abram, “ See now, The LORD has restrained me from bearing children, Please, go to my maid ; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.” (Genesis 16:2)

The Impatient Couple (v.12)

The Period of Waiting (Gen. 15:4-6)

-As Sarai waited for something to happen, she became impatient

What persuades us to shortcut the will of God?

- Impatience
- Doubt
- Pressure from other people
- The intensity of desire
- Rationalization
- Selfishness
- Pride

The Scheming

- They acted to please themselves and not to glorify God. “That I may obtain children by her.” (v. 2)
- Their decision was perfectly legal but it was not a step of faith.
- When you stop trusting God’s Word, you start leaning on man’s wisdom; and this leads to trouble.

The Trouble (v.4-5)

- When you follow the wisdom of the world, you will end up warring like the world. (James 3:13-18)
- Family fights are the most difficult to settle.
- True faith brings joy and peace through the Holy Spirit

The Reactions

- Abraham responded by being unaccountable.
- Sarah responded by being unreasonable.
- Hagar responded by being unavailable.

LESSONS FOR US TODAY

1. It is dangerous to depend on our own wisdom.
2. When we walk by sight and not by faith, we get impatient and we end up miserably.
3. Let God accomplish His will in His way and in time.
4. Christians who wait for God's leading and wait on God's working will not be ashamed and disappointed.
5. Surrendering control to Him can be difficult, but it is the best.
6. The greatest promises of God will require the most faith and patience on our part.
7. His greatest miracles are only seen when His people have come to the end of their own abilities.