

The Life of Abraham

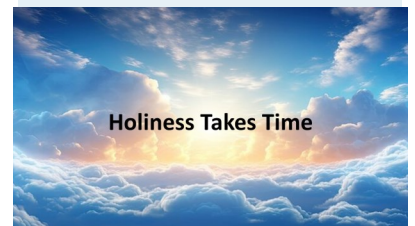
BE STILL AND WAIT

My family is in the midst of house hunting and we read that prices are coming down but we don't see evidence of it yet and we are watching interest rates which are supposedly coming down too. Timing is everything, It's hard to sit still and wait. Our society is all about how quick we can get something and not how long it will last. Companies will sell you a prime membership so you can get next day shipping "free". Fast food restaurants have begun apologizing if you had to wait for just one customer in front of you and will say, "Thank you for your patience". We in fact, should be disturbed at the lack of patience in our lives and especially in the church.

Excellence only comes from time with God. There is no shortcuts in taking time to learn, to grow, to experience, to pray and to wait on God. We have unconsciously begun to expect new Christians to show signs of spiritual maturity, and devotion, right off the altar of decision for Christ. They are the Ethiopian Eunuch who read God's word and didn't understand, believed and was baptized and we expect their lives to be a doctrinal dissertation of the life of the Apostle Paul, have the love and pastoral benevolence of John and the devotion of those who were martyred for their faith. Let's remember the fact that after almost three years of being with Christ, the disciples asked "Lord, teach us to pray". **Holiness cannot be acquired at once; holiness takes time.**

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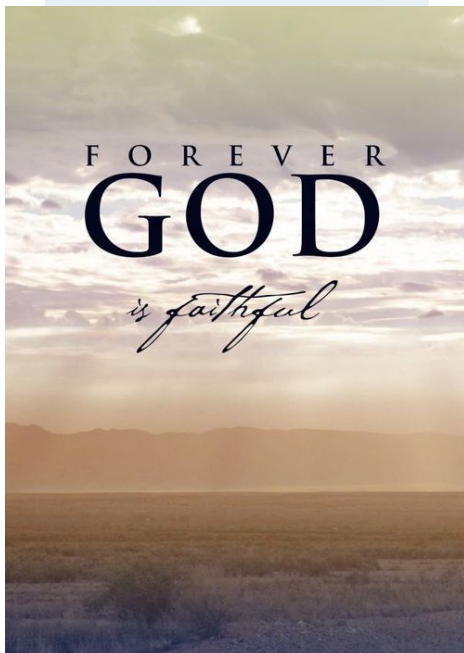
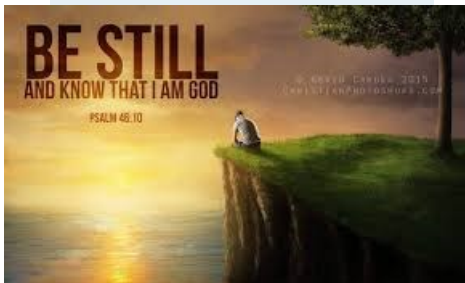


patience



/pāSHens/noun

The ability to calmly wait or endure without getting angry or upset. A steadiness that allows you to persevere in spite of obstacles, to be calm and steadfast through life's difficult times.



Divine Silence

Genesis 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

Thirteen *long* years passed from the time Hagar gave birth to Ishmael until God spoke again to Abram. We can't assume to know what thoughts Abram had during this time and we cannot presume to preach what the Bible does not say but let's just say there was an absence of doubt and direction on Abram's part. He simply waited. He had grown over time and had acquired some patience. Then, El-Shaddai spoke.

Genesis 17:2-3 **And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." (3) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:**

Suddenly, God spoke and Abram's immediate response to his friend that he had walked and talked with was to fall on his face before Him.

Another man who endured the silence of Heaven was Job. In the book of Job, God is referred to as God Almighty. His name carries the meaning of "overpowering, ever present, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, faithful, good, and sovereign". It is as if to say to Abram, Job, you and I, "*While I am sometimes silent, I remain in control of your circumstances*".

Don't worry, don't rush into decisions thinking God has forgotten you.

Psalm 46:10 **Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**

It's not about us, it's about Him, the Great I AM! God is to be exalted in the long years of silence, God is to be magnified and glorified by our waiting on Him. Just be patient and "know" that He is God!

During the silent years:

- Be patient
- Be still
- Be faithful