

SERIES: BRING IT!
SERMON: IN THE WAITING
03-11-18
By Pastor Keshia Heath

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV) *1After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield. your very great reward.2But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."4Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." 5He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."6Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness"*

Genesis 16:1-4, *"1Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4He slept with Hagar, and she conceived."*

Genesis 16:11-12, *"11The angel of the LORD also said to her: (talking about hagar)*

"You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael for the LORD has heard of your misery. 12He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Vs 16 Abram was eighty six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 17:15-22, "15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

19 Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year." 22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him."

We are in our series, bring it! How many of you have been enjoying this series? I don't know about you guys but this series has got me so pumped about this year and everything God is doing!

I pray that every one of you have made a commitment to BRING IT this year in every area of your life, no matter what! This is more than just a saying, it's more than words, it's an anthem, a declaration to say that no matter where I am, no matter who I'm with, no matter what I face, no matter what comes my way, no matter the season I WILL BRING IT! Because greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world! God is on our side, He is always with us and because of that we need to BRING IT!

This morning I want to challenge you in something that not a lot of us are good at, not a lot of us in here like to do or will do. In fact, it's one of my greatest challenges and we see in the word that it was a challenge for some of our greatest Bible heroes. The title of my message today if your taking notes is... IN THE WAITING.

In this series, we have been talking to you about moving forward.

On this journey we've learned that we will face giants, we have to bring the new us, we need to be mighty and passionate about going after God, we must have vision but not only vision, but vision with faith, sometimes we have to keep walking around the walls before they will fall, we need to change our attitude, we must let go to never let go.

What happens though when you come to the middle, and nothing is happening, God isn't visually moving anything for you anymore that you can see, when He isn't speaking to you, when He doesn't seem to be answering your prayers. What do you do in the waiting?

A lot of us get to this place. We are doing so good, God is moving mightily, everything is going great, then not even all of a sudden, but you begin to notice a little down the path, that nothing is really happening, and it feels like God is so far away from you. I want to ask you this today; do you still BRING IT IN THE WAITING?

It's easy to stand here and say I will BRING IT when everything is going good, but do you BRING IT when it's not?

You see there are seasons in our life when we get caught in the waiting, and we have to be patient for our promise. No one likes that word patience, do we? Patience isn't just waiting, it's waiting with a happy heart! I am really trying to be more patient, but sometimes in the waiting, we lose that patience and start trying to take things into our own hands to make the promise come before its time.

I want to look back at these scriptures that we read in the beginning.

You see in chapter 15 that God is making a promise to Abram, that he is going to give him a son to be his heir. Abram was around 75 years old when God gave him this promise, he was 86 years old when Ishmael was born in chapter 16 then he was 99 years old when God gave him another covenant, including his son Isaac, Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

Guys this is a long period of time. To us it doesn't seem like it because it's in chapters but let's really think about it. He was 75 years old when God said he would give him a son to be his heir, fast forward 11 years still nothing has happened and no son has come. 11 years you guys! If we don't get our prayers answered in a week we give up and just assume well it's not going to happen. 11 years and his promise had not come. So what did he do? Well what most of us do, he tried to make the promise happen in his way. Now fast forward again to when he 99 years old, so this is 13 years after Ishmael is born, 13 years so even longer this time around, God makes another covenant with Him, and talks to him about Isaac, now Abraham says, God, if only Ishmael may live under your blessing, and God tells him yes I will bless Ishmael but I will

establish my covenant with Isaac. Then when Abraham was 100 years old when Sarah had Isaac.

There was basically 25 years of waiting for Abraham, in the midst of that waiting He tried to make it happen himself, and had Ishamel, this is not what God had in mind, so Ishmael was blessed but he was not able to be a part of the covenant that God had for Abraham's son Isaac.

One day when I used to live with my oldest sister, she had got up that morning and wanted to make some ribs in the crockpot, as she read the instructions the proper way to do this said that you must boil the ribs for 30 minutes before cooking, her response to that was "boil in water for 30 minutes? I don't have time for that! I just want to throw them in the crock pot and let them cook!" As she said this I remember in that moment the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. So many times in life we find ourselves in seasons that we never thought we'd be. We wanted to be here, but God placed us there, we wanted to be married, but we are still single, we want to be parents, but we are still just husband and wife, we want to travel the world but we are in one place, we want a promotion yet we are still in the same position we've been in for ten years, the list goes on and on, but church this is our boiling point, it's in the waiting. We don't feel like going through it because we want everything to happen right when we ask, but God knows exactly what He is doing and the times of waiting are necessary. If my sister skipped this step of the process the ribs would still be edible but they would not be near as tasty, tender, and amazing as they are intended to be.

I want us to be a church that is extraordinary, not just ordinary, that is on fire for God, not just a flame here in there.

We have to bring it in the waiting! Not take matters into our own hands but know that God knows exactly what He is doing, that He is here with you, watching you and moving on your behalf.

Jeanne Mayo says, "the teacher is always quiet during the test"

Church, if we are going to declare 2018 a year that we Bring it, you can't pick and choose when you will Bring it, you have to do it in every season.

We need to be just as satisfied in the season of silence as we are in the days of declaration.

So what do we need to do to bring it in the waiting?

1) Be Persistent in your faith

- a. *James 1:6, "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."*

- b. We must remain faithful to God, truly trust Him, know that He is control and has a greater purpose. We can't become bitter towards Him, or lax in our praise and worship to Him. We must keep our faith strong! Be persistent in that! Work your faith muscle!

2) Perspective

- a. *Colossians 3:1-3, "1Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*
- b. *2 Corinthians 4:18, " 18So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*
- c. Change your perspective. You see Abram's perspective was still on what he did not have yet, so he took it into his own hands. You have to change what you are seeing around you. Look at all the amazing things God has done in your life, and all the things that He is still doing. In order for us to remain patient, we must change our perspective, You see when you start putting your eyes towards all the things you still don't have, and everyone around you seems to have the things you want. Your perspective leaves the promise of God and shifts to the void in your heart. Then you become envious, hurt, anxious, depressed, and more. We have to keep our eyes on Him in the waiting, He will show us what we cannot see.

3) Prayer

- a. *1 Corinthians 16:11, "11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."*
- b. Keep praying!! Don't stop praying when you don't see the promise. Pray even more! Let me challenge you in this - Change your prayer from praying for that breakthrough or that promise to pray about God working in you! That you would get stronger as you wait, that He would do a work in you in the waiting. So many times while we wait we are just praying for that mountain that we want moved but we don't realize there are personal, inward mountains that need to be moved before we see the outward one move. So maybe try shifting your prayer, from the outward to the inward.

There are so many in the Bible that went through seasons of waiting besides Abraham

- Joseph waited in prison and in the pit before he got to the palace
- Job had a long period of mourning where he waited on breakthrough and healing
- Noah waited 100 years while building the ark for the flood to come
- Saul who was then called Paul waited 3 days for Ananias to show up before he could see again

- The Jews had 400 years of silence between the old and new testament
- Hannah had to wait to have a child

You are not alone in the waiting. Take courage as you wait and embrace this season of waiting.

Does anyone know what this is? It's a disposable camera, crazy as it seems some of the younger ones in here probably don't even know how to use this. Nobody uses these anymore because we don't have patience and we would rather just go to Walmart and get our instant prints. But do y'all remember the days where you had to go to the store and drop off your camera or your film? And had to wait days before you could pick it up to finally see your pictures for the first time? There was no getting to see it before using it? You see they would take the film and have to wait for it to develop; they would take the film to a dark room where no light could hit it, because if light hits it it will distort the picture. *It's in the dark that development happens.* In the waiting, even if it seems dark, God is developing you, making you stronger, more patient, more trusting, He is making you even greater for when that answered prayer, that promise, that breakthrough comes, and if you try to make it happen before its time, it won't fully be what God intended it to be.

Church it's time we bring it even in the waiting. God is near in the waiting. Let's Bring It in the waiting!