

# CLOUD OF WITNESSES

## Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 6

Why is God not answering my prayers? Why am I continuing to go through this difficult time? God - you promised to bless me! Where are you God! Listen as Pastor Curt shares from the current series called **Cloud of Witnesses** as we learn about **Sarah** who becomes impatient with God and created her own solution. God made a promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son but as time went on nothing was happening. So, Sarah came up with her own solution that has caused 4,000 years of mistrust and killing. God's promise did come true 25 years later when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90! A baby at 100 and 90! A miracle!

When you can't understand God and impatience wants to overwhelm you, don't complicate God's promise with your solution. **Trust God: 1) even if it takes a long time, 2) even if it seems ridiculous, and 3) even if those around you don't trust God with you.** Today, we learned that when you want to become impatient: **1) Don't try to get ahead of God when He isn't moving fast enough for you, 2) Focus on what's happening in you, not what's happening to you, and 3) Even our very best cannot possibly compare to anything God has in mind.**

Be encouraged as you hear that God has a much better plan for your life than you have for yourself, if you're willing to wait for it and not jump ahead with your own solution.

## Discussion Questions

- We all have waited for things. Retirement, Debt, A New Job, A Child, Recovery...Describe what it was like and how it impacted your life.
- Talk about a promise you are currently waiting for God to fill. What practical steps can you take to ensure that you are waiting well?
- Pastor Curt encouraged us to trust God even: if it takes a long time, seems ridiculous, and if those around you don't trust God with you. Which of these have you experienced?
- Which of the 3 things that Pastor Curt challenged us to do when we become impatient have you been able to do or honestly have trouble doing? Tell us about it.
- Read the story of Sarah and Abraham from Genesis 15:1-6, 16:1-2, 18:10-14, and 21:6-7. Ask God for help to stop trying to control your life but trust that He is already at work in you! What next step are you willing to take?

## Prayer Focus

Thank God for His unfailing love and faithfulness to you and for being a God of His word. Ask Him to help you trust Him as you wait for Him to act. Pray for the discernment to know which voices you need to dismiss from your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you with patience and increase your hope for the fulfillment of His promise. Thank Him for having great plans for you.

## Next Steps

Commit to trusting God regardless of your circumstances, and turn off any outside voices that cause you to doubt Him. Be still in His presence. Develop a joyful expectancy for the fulfillment of His promise to you!

## Leader Tip

As we finish our Summer semester, be sure and take time for Sabbath as a leader. Begin praying for your NEXT STEP in helping your group move forward and the possibilities of launching a new group in the fall.