

# **Feeling Powerless & Impatient**

**Genesis 16:1-16**

# Feeling powerless and Impatient

Where do you feel powerless today?

Where do you feel unseen?

Where or who are you impatient with?

Do you feel uncared for?

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- Sarai's powerlessness and weight of expectations
  - The promises of God: Is she holding back God's promises?
  - Cultural expectations: value, worth and purpose in life defined by having children.
  - Personal expectations- desire to have a child
  - Aging- getting harder and more dangerous to have a child.
  - Church/religion- get married and have kids

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- We've all been where Sarai is:
  - Bitterness towards someone who has what we think we deserve. We read into every word and action as an attack on us.
  - Where one person's success just emphasizes for us our broken dream, unmet expectations, and "failures."

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- When we feel powerless we often look for those we can exert power over and unload all our “failures”, unmet expectations, and frustrations on them.
- Are you currently executing power over someone out of your own hurts, wounds, and bitterness?

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- Hagar is powerless, unseen, and feels uncared for.

Where do you feel powerless?

Where do you feel unseen?

Where do you feel uncared for?



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- Hagar the unseen, the powerless one, the uncared for- God seeks her out.
- Hagar gives God a name- El Rio- The God who sees.
- Hagar is the first theologian in Scripture.
- Hagar- the Egyptian slave, the nobody, the powerless one- gives God a name!

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- We are loved by a God who sees each and everyone of us.
- You are seen by God.
- You will find your power in God. Power to endure. Power to carry on. Power to overcome- through God.
- God knows you. God knows your situation. God hear you. God sees you. God is with you.
- God is El Rio- the God who sees you.

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- Those situations where you feel powerless, unseen, unheard and uncared for- write El Rio after each one.
  - God sees you in each and every situation.
  - God hears you in each and every situation.
  - God will be your power in each and every situation.
- Where are you running out of patience with God?
  - Have faith in God to bring about His plan for you in His time.

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- Women- tell us your stories. Tell us what you have learned about God. We need to hear your voices.
- Everyone has a story to tell us about what they have learned about God.
- Tell your story!
- May we all have ears to hear, humility to grow in our faith, and rejoice in what God is doing in our midst.