



08-09-2026

Finding Gods purpose in a delay

Unwanted delays arrive uninvited—external circumstances, sickness, unexpected detours, and a painful loss of control. They force us to learn surrender and resilience whether we feel ready or not.

Wanted delays, on the other hand, are intentional. They look like sabbaticals, setting boundaries, and intentionally stepping back from the hustle of *"doing"* so we can focus on *"being."* That takes strategic patience.

You cannot have a testimony without something to overcome. That implies that when we felt an urgent need, God's answer was not an immediate "yes."

God invites us to **trust**, to **rest in His peace**, to **pray**, and to **remember where our confidence lies**.

Delays can be terrifying.

When things don't happen when we expect them to, our minds fill in the gaps. **The Israelites** spent 40 long years in the wilderness.

- **Joseph** spent 13 painful years in slavery and prison between his initial vision and the throne.
- **Abraham and Sarah** waited decades for their promised child.
- And **Lazarus** literally died before Jesus showed up.

Where is God in your delay? **He is in the details of the detour.**

"Why is God silent?" to "What is God doing that I cannot see?"

As Habakkuk 2:3 reminds us: *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come."*

1 Corinthians 15:58—*steadfast, immovable, and always abounding?*

It starts in **Habakkuk 1:2** "How long, Lord, must I cry for help? But you do not listen! I call out to you, 'Violence!' But you do not deliver!"

verse 5: "Look at the nations and pay attention! You will be shocked and amazed! For I will do something in your lifetime that you will not believe..."

verse 13, "You are too just to tolerate evil... so why do you put up with treacherous people? Why do you say nothing when the wicked devour those more righteous than they are?"

In **Habakkuk 2:1**, "I will stand at my watch post; I will remain stationed on the city wall. I will keep watching so I can see what He says to me..."

"Write down this message. Record it legibly on tablets... for the message is a witness to what is decreed; it gives reliable testimony about how matters will turn out."

Habakkuk 3

verses 1 and 2, "Lord, I've heard the report of what you did, and I am in awe. In our time, repeat those deeds! Reveal them again. But in the middle of turmoil, remember mercy."

verses 17 and 18: "Even if the fig tree does not bud, and there are no grapes on the vines... even if the olive crop fails and the fields yield no food... even if the sheep disappear from the pen and there are no cattle in the stalls—I will still rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!"

verse 19: "The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He gives me the agility of a deer, enabling me to walk on rugged terrain."

- **First, WE can lament over difficulties.** God gives us space to be honest about our pain.
- **Second, WE can reflect on what God has already done.** Looking back at His past faithfulness gives us hope for today.
- **Third, WE can express our concerns about God's answer.** It is okay to wrestle when His response doesn't look like what we expected.
- **Fourth, WE can rejoice even when there is no earthly evidence.** Joy in waiting is rooted in faith, not sight.
- **Fifth, WE can trust that God is working.** Even when He is silent, He is never still.
- **And finally, WE can have strength.** We are backed by a divine source who will deliver us, empower us, and enable us to navigate every difficulty in front of us.

