



Your  
story  
matters.

AUG 17, 2025

Message Notes



### *The Space in Between* “PARADOXES THAT MATTER” Pastor Tony Myles | Aug 17, 2025

Let's talk about something most of us try to avoid: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Some of the most meaningful things in life will also be the most  
confusing and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Consider** Job 11:7-9, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Isaiah 55:8-11.

There's something in us that longs for \_\_\_\_\_...and yet we  
live within \_\_\_\_\_.

**Is this a problem...or is it a \_\_\_\_\_?**

We often feel stuck in the "space in between" - moments when we're not  
where we were, but not yet where we want to be.

- These moments can feel confusing, frustrating, and discouraging...  
or can become wonder-filled.
- What can we do with the waiting, the uncertainty, the tension?  
And where's God in all of it?

**"Paradox" defined:**

- One (such as a person, situation, or action) having  
\_\_\_\_\_ contradictory qualities or phases.
- A statement that is \_\_\_\_\_ contradictory to common  
sense and yet is perhaps true.

**The ultimate paradox that matters:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

- It's a gift that God isn't just different - He's \_\_\_\_\_...yet  
clearly \_\_\_\_\_.
- We can try to \_\_\_\_\_ God to only what we can fully  
explain...or fully \_\_\_\_\_ Him as He's revealed Himself.

**God is inviting us not to understand everything, but to experience  
Him more \_\_\_\_\_ through what He's made clear.  
(Romans 11:33-36)**

## The beautiful paradox of God:

- He's **infinite**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Psalm 139:1-3**)
- He's **majestic**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Isaiah 6:1**)
- He's **heavenly**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Isaiah 66:1** & **Matthew 28:20b**)
- He's **Trinity**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Genesis 1:1-2** & **John 1:1-14**)
- He's **Lord**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Philippians 2:1-11**)
- He's **graceful**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Titus 2:11-12**)
- He's **Sovereign**, and He's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** & **John 1:12**)

## The beautiful paradox of us:

- We're **diverse**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Romans 3:23** & **1 Corinthians 12:12**)
- We're **created**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Ephesians 2:10**)
- We're **new**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Colossians 3:9-10**)
- We're **upward**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Colossians 3:1-17**)
- We're **forgiven**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Ephesians 4:32**)
- We're **Church**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_. (Look up **Acts ch. 1 & 2**)
- We're **seated**, and we're \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Look up **Ephesians 2:1-9** & **John 17:15-18**)

## WHAT CAN I DO IN THE SPACE IN BETWEEN?:

- Revere God through **Scripture** and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**John 4:23-24**)
- Receive growth through **comfort** and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**Philippians 2:12-13**)
- Resist sin through **surrender** and \_\_\_\_\_. (**Titus 2:11-12**)
- Reach others through **friendship** and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**1 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- Reconcile Normal through **serving** and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**)

Don't miss this...

To some, your life of faith will look like \_\_\_\_\_...  
yet what doesn't make sense to them at first may be the very  
thing that \_\_\_\_\_.

*Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!*

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Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If you had to wear the same color shirts for the next year, what color would you pick, and why?*

1. How do you respond to reading **Job 11:7-9**, **Ecclesiastes 3:11**, and **Isaiah 55:8-11**? (Problem or path, and why?)
2. Read **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** and discuss the following questions:
  - a. Which of the paradoxes in this passage are the hardest to work through for you?
  - b. Which of the paradoxes in this passage are the hardest to explain to someone else?
  - c. Pastor Tony talked about reducing God "to only what we can fully explain" or embracing "Him as He's revealed Himself." What steps can you take to move from the need to understand to embracing His mystery?
3. As you look through the lists of paradoxes of God and of us, with the accompanying scripture, which ones are the hardest to get your head around? In light of those, what might God be asking you to consider about yourself, or Himself?
4. *"The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God."* **1 Corinthians 1:18** What kind of "foolish" living is God nudging you toward this week?!

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*Day One:* Luke 2; Psalm 135

*Day Two:* Numbers 18; Proverbs 11

*Day Three:* Ephesians 6; 2 Kings 9

*Day Four:* 1 Thessalonians 5; Ezekiel 12

*Day Five:* Job 11; Acts 23

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



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Let's talk about something most of us try to avoid: **Tension**. Some of the most meaningful things in life will also be the most confusing and untamable.

**Consider** Job 11:7-9, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Isaiah 55:8-11.

There's something in us that longs for command...and yet we live within mystery.

**Is this a problem...or is it a path?**

We often feel stuck in the "space in between" - moments when we're not where we were, but not yet where we want to be.

- These moments can feel confusing, frustrating, and discouraging... or can become wonder-filled.
- What can we do with the waiting, the uncertainty, the tension? And where's God in all of it?

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- One (such as a person, situation, or action) having seemingly contradictory qualities or phases.
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**The ultimate paradox that matters:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

- It's a gift that God isn't just different - He's higher...yet clearly with us.
- We can try to reduce God to only what we can fully explain... or fully embrace Him as He's revealed Himself.

**God is inviting us not to understand everything, but to experience Him more genuinely through what He's made clear. (Romans 11:33-36)**

## The beautiful paradox of God:

- He's **infinite**, and He's intimate. (Look up **Psalm 139:1-3**)
- He's **majestic**, and He's knowable. (Look up **Isaiah 6:1**)
- He's **heavenly**, and He's here. (Look up **Isaiah 66:1** & **Matthew 28:20b**)
- He's **Trinity**, and He's **One**. (Look up **Genesis 1:1-2** & **John 1:1-14**)
- He's **Lord**, and He's **Savior**. (Look up **Philippians 2:1-11**)
- He's **graceful**, and He's holy. (Look up **Titus 2:11-12**)
- He's **Sovereign**, and He's choosable. (Look up **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** & **John 1:12**)

## The beautiful paradox of us:

- We're **diverse**, and we're unified. (Look up **Romans 3:23** & **1 Corinthians 12:12**)
- We're **created**, and we're creative. (Look up **Ephesians 2:10**)
- We're **new**, and we're renewing. (Look up **Colossians 3:9-10**)
- We're **upward**, and we're outward. (Look up **Colossians 3:1-17**)
- We're **forgiven**, and we're forgivers. (Look up **Ephesians 4:32**)
- We're **Church**, and we're church. (Look up **Acts ch. 1 & 2**)
- We're **seated**, and we're struggling. (Look up **Ephesians 2:1-9** & **John 17:15-18**)

## WHAT CAN I DO IN THE SPACE IN BETWEEN?:

- Revere God through **Scripture** and Spirit. (**John 4:23-24**)
- Receive growth through **comfort** and discomfort. (**Philippians 2:12-13**)
- Resist sin through **surrender** and effort. (**Titus 2:11-12**)
- Reach others through **friendship** and formation. (**1 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- Reconcile Normal through **serving** and leading. (**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**)

Don't miss this...

To some, your life of faith will look like foolishness...

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