



Your
story
matters.

OCT 5, 2025

Message Notes



The Benefit of Doubt

"When God Hits the Pause Button"

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Oct 5, 2025

We've been _____ on different people in the Scriptures who struggled with doubt.

But God actually _____ their doubts to ultimately deepen their faith and not have doubt be what defines them.

Habakkuk = to _____; to embrace

His message, questions, and doubts reflect the _____ of wanting to embrace God, but because what he's seeing doesn't match up with what he believes, he wrestles with God (note **Habakkuk 1:2-3**).

We often doubt that God is good when life isn't; and this is _____ even more so when it feels like God is making us wait/hit the pause button.

Note **Habakkuk 2:3**

1. Why Does God Push _____ at Times in My Life?

Waiting can be such a turbulent time in our life because we don't always know what the _____ will be.

When God pushes pause in our lives, it's always to accomplish His _____.

2. God's Timelines _____ Included Pauses

- _____ experienced times of waiting (note **Galatians 1-2; Acts 16**).
- _____ sent into exile on the remote island of Patmos...but... (note **Revelation 1:9**).
- Even _____ had to wait (note **John 2:4; 7:30**).

But God's pauses are never _____ (note **Habakkuk 2:3** = *appointed time* = *moaid* (Hebrew) = perfect, _____ timing of God).

Waiting doesn't mean doing nothing. Waiting means not going _____ of God as we do something. (Evans)

3. When I'm in God's _____ Room...

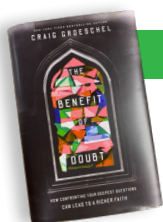
- A. Know God always has the last word and will _____
His plans (note **Habakkuk 2:4a**) - and because God is always good and right in all He does, even when we don't understand His plans, we have the _____
- B. To _____ Him (note **Habakkuk 2:4b** with **Romans 1:17**; **Galatians 3:11**; **Hebrews 10:38**) - my _____ with God isn't based on what I see, or want, or the result I want. Our faith is to be based on the character and goodness and _____ of God...

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- I will _____.
- I won't _____ away or walk away from God.
- Even though my situation is hard and I'm not sure what God may do, I will stay _____ with God as I wait.
- *But the Lord...*
- God is still in _____ (note **Habakkuk 2:20**).
- I will follow Him and worship Him before I see Him _____.
- Because God is _____ and in charge, I can choose to trust and follow Him.

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

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Personal Guides on the back**



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could change one decision you made in life, what would it be and why?

1. What stood out to you from Chapters 7 and 8?
2. Describe a time you have felt as though God hit the pause button in your life.
3. Do you believe God's timing is perfect and unstoppable, why or why not? (See **Habakkuk 2:3**)
4. What steps can you take to remain obedient while in God's waiting room?
5. Pastor Tom said, "To trust Him - my relationship with God isn't based on what I see, or want, or the result of what I want. Our faith is to be based on the character and goodness and nature of God..." What pauses in your life do you need to surrender; *choosing* to trust in God instead of in yourself? (See **Habakkuk 2:4**; **Romans 1:17**)
6. Spend some time as a group in prayer, surrendering to God your pauses from the previous question and encouraging one another of God's goodness.

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read Chapters 7-8 (pages 115-150) of *The Benefit of Doubt*.

Not too late to join a small group! Use the GroupFinder at MYRC.CHURCH/GRUPOFINDER!



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His message, questions, and doubts reflect the tension of wanting to embrace God, but because what he's seeing doesn't match up with what he believes, he wrestles with God (note **Habakkuk 1:2-3**).

We often doubt that God is good when life isn't; and this is exaggerated even more so when it feels like God is making us wait/hit the pause button.

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1. Why Does God Push Pause at Times in My Life?

Waiting can be such a turbulent time in our life because we don't always know what the timeline will be.

When God pushes pause in our lives, it's always to accomplish His purposes.

2. God's Timelines Always Included Pauses

- Paul experienced times of waiting (note **Galatians 1:2**; **Acts 16**).
- John sent into exile on the remote island of Patmos...but... (note **Revelation 1:9**).
- Even Jesus had to wait (note **John 2:4**; **7:30**).

But God's pauses are never permanent (note **Habakkuk 2:3** = *appointed time* = *moaid* (Hebrew) = perfect, unstoppable timing of God).

Waiting doesn't mean doing nothing. Waiting means not going outside of God as we do something. (Evans)

3. When I'm in God's Waiting Room...

- A. Know God always has the last word and will accomplish His plans (note **Habakkuk 2:4a**) - and because God is always good and right in all He does, even when we don't understand His plans, we have the choice...
- B. To trust Him (note **Habakkuk 2:4b** with **Romans 1:17**; **Galatians 3:11**; **Hebrews 10:38**) - my relationship with God isn't based on what I see, or want, or the result I want. Our faith is to be based on the character and goodness and nature of God...

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