

The Long Wait — Your Vision Isn't Dead, It's Just Not Done Yet

“If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.”

— Habakkuk 2:3 (NLT)

Let me start somewhere honest. Some of you have been waiting so long you've quietly stopped expecting it.

The prodigal who hasn't called. The marriage you keep praying back to life. The dream you set down years ago because the season got hard, and it never seemed to come back around. You don't talk about it much anymore. Hope that gets disappointed enough learns to go quiet.

I've been there. Waiting is one of the loneliest things faith ever asks of you.

write it where you can see it

Habakkuk was frustrated. He'd been crying out to God about things that weren't changing fast enough, and God's answer wasn't a timeline. It was: write the vision down. Make it plain. Put it somewhere you'll see it — because the waiting was going to be long enough that he'd need the reminder.

That's the first thing a long wait steals: the memory of what you were promised. So write it down. The thing you're believing for. Put it where your eyes land. Not because saying it makes it happen, but because you are going to need to remember, on the hard days, what you're still standing for.

slow is not the same as no

Here's the line that has carried me: "if it seems slow in coming, wait patiently — for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."

Read it twice. Slow, but not delayed. Those feel like the same thing when you're the one waiting. They are not. Slow means it hasn't happened yet. Delayed means something went wrong. God is telling Habakkuk — and you — that a long wait is not a broken promise. The clock you're watching isn't the clock He's keeping.

faithful in the meantime

The hardest part of waiting isn't the wanting. It's staying faithful in the gap — loving your people well when you can't see the result, showing up for the marriage before it's healed, praying for the kid before the call comes, doing the next right thing in a season that hasn't paid off yet.

That meantime is not wasted. It's where you're being made into the person who can actually hold the thing you're waiting for when it finally arrives.

Waiting well isn't passive, and it isn't a mood you summon — it's a few deliberate things you do, so let me name them. You keep the promise visible so the long days can't erase it. You refuse to read slow as no, even when your gut has already filed it under *never*. And you stay faithful in the small, unwatched ways while you wait — the prayer nobody hears, the showing-up nobody applauds, the next right thing done in a season that hasn't paid you back yet. That's not killing time until the answer comes. That's becoming someone who can carry it when it does.

Three challenges before you close this tab

- 1. Write it down.** The thing you've been waiting on God for — name it, in one sentence, somewhere you'll see it this week. Stop carrying it as a vague ache. Make it a stated hope.
- 2. Stop reading slow as no.** Find the place where you've quietly decided it's not going to happen, and challenge that conclusion. You don't know that. You know it's slow. That's all you know.
- 3. Be faithful in one gap.** Pick the area where you've stopped showing up because it hasn't paid off, and show up there anyway this week — not for the result, for the faithfulness.

A final word

Habakkuk never got a date. He got a promise and a command to wait well. And somehow, by the end of his book, he goes from frustrated to one of the most defiant declarations of trust in all of Scripture — joy before the harvest, praise before the proof.

You may not get your date either. But the delay you're in is not the end of the story. It may take a long time. Keep waiting. It will happen.

Love your people well. The time is now. — Duke