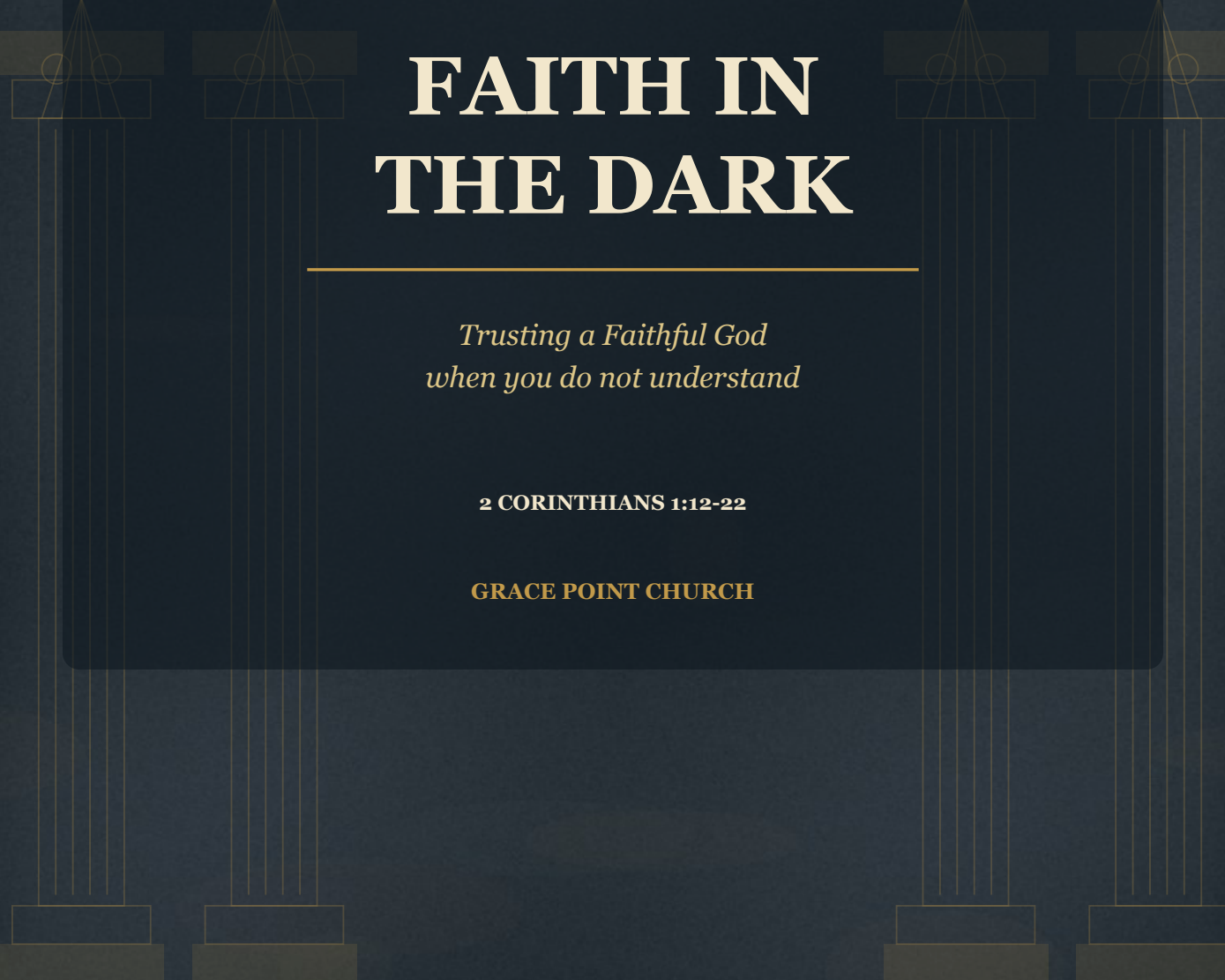




A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS



# FAITH IN THE DARK

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*Trusting a Faithful God  
when you do not understand*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-22

GRACE POINT CHURCH

# THE BIG IDEA

*Because God is faithful, we can trust Him even when we do not understand.*

Paul's changed travel plans raised questions about his integrity. His answer was not that every circumstance would make immediate sense. He pointed beyond himself to the unwavering faithfulness of God. Our confidence rests in who God is, not in our ability to explain every turn in the road.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*"As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No."*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:18

**Where am I struggling to understand what God is doing? What explanation am I demanding before I will trust Him?**

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

# TRUST GOD'S WORD

Paul could appeal to a conscience shaped by God's grace: he had acted with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom. When circumstances confuse us, Scripture gives us a fixed place to stand.

- + Let God's revealed Word interpret your circumstances.
- + Choose godly sincerity over self-protective spin.
- + Trust the WHO before demanding the WHY.

*Faith does not begin with a complete explanation. It begins with the character and Word of the One who speaks.*

**Which voice has more authority in my life right now: God's Word, my fear, my feelings, or the expectations of others? What clear truth do I need to obey?**

## WHAT I NEED TO REMEMBER



# FAITH IN THE DARK

Faith in the dark is not a leap with no foundation. It is confidence anchored to God's faithful character when the path ahead is hidden.

## BLIND FAITH

- Believes without a foundation
- Avoids honest questions
- Depends on optimism or control

## FAITH IN THE DARK

- Rests in God's revealed character
- Brings questions honestly to God
- Obeys with limited visibility

*"As surely as God is faithful..."*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:18

**What storm is testing my faith right now? Which truth about God's character gives me a place to stand in the dark?**

NAME THE STORM - NAME THE TRUTH

# TRUST GOD'S SON

*"For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him."*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

Jesus is not a detour from God's faithfulness. He is its clearest revelation and its final guarantee. In Christ, God has shown that His promises are trustworthy.

## REAL

Jesus entered history, suffered, died, and rose. Our faith has a living foundation.

## RIGHT

His Word and ways remain true even when they confront our expectations.

## BETTER

Christ is better than the outcome we planned and the control we crave.

**Which is hardest for me to believe today: that Jesus is real, that Jesus is right, or that Jesus is better? Why?**

### MY RESPONSE TO CHRIST

# LEARNING TO LEAD WITH YES

We often approach God with a hidden condition: 'I will trust You if You say yes to my plan.' The gospel invites a different posture. Because every promise finds its Yes in Christ, we can bring God our surrendered yes before we know the outcome.

*God does not owe my plans a yes. In Christ, I can give Him my yes.*

## A PRAYER OF SURRENDER

*"Father, my plans are open before You. Correct what is unwise, close what is not good, and lead me where Christ is better. My yes belongs to You."*

**What expectation have I placed on God? What plan do I need to hold with an open hand?  
What would it look like to lead with yes this week?**

## OPEN-HANDED SURRENDER



# TRUST GOD'S PEOPLE

Paul does not describe faith as a private achievement. God establishes 'us with you' in Christ. He strengthens His people through His people, and He gives the Spirit as the guarantee that He will finish what He began.



## ESTABLISHES

God makes us steady together in Christ.



## ANOINTS

God sets His people apart for shared service.



## SEALS

God marks us as His own and secures our identity.



## GIVES HIS SPIRIT

God places His guarantee within us.

*"It is God who establishes us with you in Christ."*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:21

**Where has distrust kept me from Christian community? Who can help strengthen my faith - and whom can I strengthen?**

PEOPLE GOD HAS PLACED AROUND ME

# DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 Where has God not met your expectations?
- 02 When have unmet expectations produced fear or distrust in you?
- 03 How is faith in the dark different from blind faith?
- 04 Which promise of God becomes clearer when you look to Christ?
- 05 Who has God used to establish or steady your faith?
- 06 What surrendered yes is God inviting from you this week?

**PRAY:** Ask God for confidence in His Word, deeper trust in His Son, and humility to receive the care of His people.

## NOTES AND PRAYER



# WALKING BY FAITH THIS WEEK

*Where has God not been meeting my expectations?  
Am I trusting His faithfulness or demanding explanations?*

Choose one concrete response in each movement of the sermon.

1

## WORD

Write one truth from Scripture you will rehearse when fear speaks.

2

## SON

Name one expectation you will surrender because Christ is better.

3

## PEOPLE

Contact one believer who can pray with you or needs encouragement from you.

*"If we are faithless, He remains faithful - for He cannot deny Himself."*

2 TIMOTHY 2:13

## MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP