

Still the One
Guest Speaker // The Tree Church
Pastor Matthew Johnson

Overview
What do we do when God doesn't answer our prayers the way we expected? This week's message explores the tension we feel when God's plans don't align with our own. Through the stories of Habakkuk and John the Baptist, we see that even people with strong faith can experience confusion, disappointment, and doubt when life takes an unexpected turn. The message is a reminder that faith isn't about understanding everything God is doing. It's about trusting who He is, even when we don't understand His ways. When we're hurting or struggling with unanswered prayers, we can bring our questions to Jesus, remember His faithfulness, and choose to trust Him in the unknown.

Icebreaker
Have you ever looked back on a difficult season and realized God was working in ways you couldn't see at the time?

Read Habakkuk 1:2, 1:5–6, 1:13 and 2:4

- What were Habakkuk's two main complaints to God? Why do you think it can be difficult to trust God when His response doesn't make sense to us?
- In Habakkuk 2:4, God contrasts trusting in ourselves with living by faith. What does that look like in everyday life?
- How can we continue to trust God when we don't understand what He's doing?

Read Matthew 11:1–6, John 1:29

- What does John's question teach us about experiencing doubt, even when we have a strong faith?
- How did Jesus respond to John's question? What does this reveal about how Jesus meets us in our struggles?
- Have you ever struggled to reconcile what you believe about God with what you're experiencing?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matthew 11:6)?
- How can we hold on to faith when God doesn't change our circumstances the way we hoped?

Three Ways to Respond

The message gave us three ways to respond when our faith is tested. Choose one question to discuss as a group, or invite everyone to reflect personally.

1. Run to Jesus When You're Hurting or Confused

- When you're struggling, is your first response to run to Jesus or to try to work through everything on your own? What would it look like to bring your honest thoughts and feelings to Him?

2. Remind Your Heart of All He's Done

- What is one way God has shown His faithfulness in your life that you need to remember in your current season?

3. Trust Jesus

- Where is God asking you to trust Him right now, even though you don't have the answers or know how things will work out?

Application

This week, practice bringing your questions to Jesus, remembering His faithfulness, and choosing to trust Him in the unknown. Take a few minutes to identify one specific step you can take this week.

- Run to Jesus.
- Remember His faithfulness.
- Choose to trust.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being faithful even when we don't understand Your ways. You know the questions, disappointments, and struggles we carry. Help us bring those things honestly to You instead of allowing them to pull us away from You. Remind us of Your love and power, and help us remember all the ways You have been faithful in our lives. Give us the courage to trust You when our circumstances don't make sense and the faith to follow You even when we cannot see what comes next. Help us hold on to the truth that You are still the One we can trust. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Upcoming Events:

- 11/1 – Welcome to the X
- 11/4 – First Wednesday Prayer, 7:30 am
- 11/7 – Hope for the Holidays

Resources:

- To request prayer: https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/13150
- To meet with a Pastor: https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/534644
- Financial Assistance, Sobriety Resources, grief support, and more: https://thex.church/care/

X Church Podcast: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8rUS49IuWYwojA6eKlA_VuAO592ZYQgd