



**ABUNDANT LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH**  
**69, IJU ROAD, AGEGE, LAGOS**  
**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
**MAY 2019**

**TOPIC:** DELAYED ANSWERS TO PRAYERS  
**STUDY I:** GOD'S TIMING AND PURPOSE  
**TEXTS:** HABAKKUK 2:1-3, JOHN 11:1-6, 14-15

**INTRODUCTION:**

A delay is a put off until a later time. It defers, retards, stops or hinders someone from getting something within the period of time he/she wants it. It can also hinder something from happening to or for someone within a period of time.

In this series of study, we shall be seeing that answers to prayers can be delayed for one reason or the other.

**DISCUSSION SESSION:**

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to pray again and again about the same thing and the answer did not come? Have you ever been driven to the wall after praying about something, to the point that you wonder if God still answers prayers and if His words are still true and powerful? If yes, let's share some experience.

**GOD'S TIMING AND PURPOSE:**

God is a God of time and purpose. Most times, what we call a delay is nothing but an alignment with God's timing. His timing is often different from ours. This means that the distance between His thoughts and ours is as wide as the distance between the heaven and earth - Isaiah 55:9. We live in time but God lives in eternity - Psalms 90:4. For God, there is time for everything He does and a reason behind His actions.

➤ **THOUGH IT TARRIES... IT WILL NOT TARRY - HABAKKUK 2:3**

Having stood on his watch tower (the place of prayer), Habakkuk received a vision from the Lord and the words that accompanied the vision were noteworthy and very instructive; *"Though it tarries, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not tarry"*. This statement appears to be contradictory, but it is not. The first thing to take note of here is that God already told Habakkuk that the vision was for an appointed time, and in His wisdom, He did not reveal the time to the prophet. God does this with us also so that we can be patient in hope and move on by faith.

Though it tarries: This simply means “though it may not happen the way and at the time you want it, and it appears late when compared to your calendar...”

It will not tarry: This simply means that it’s not going to come later than God’s timing. God’s move can never be behind His schedule. He is always on time and on point.

In a nutshell, the statement simply means that *though it did not come according to your timing, it will surely come according to God’s timing*. His timing is the best for you so, keep trusting in Him.

- **WHY WILL JESUS DELAY HIS RESPONSE TO THE NEED OF THE ONE HE LOVED?** John 11:3 reveals to us that Lazarus was a man specially loved by Jesus, yet when he prayed to Jesus for healing, Jesus delayed. Why? It was revealed in verse 4 that

Glorifying God was the reason for the sickness and God will be more glorified when Lazarus was raised from death than when he would simply be healed. In verse 15, Jesus was excited about the fact that He was not there “on time”. Wow! He was excited because He was not there at Martha’s time but worked with God’s time so that God’s purpose might be fulfilled and the faith of the disciples would be strengthened. God is up to something in your matter. Keep believing Him because His timing and purpose are better than yours.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

All things are only beautiful when they happen in God’s time - Eccl. 3:11. Don’t give up on God because you’re experiencing delay in answers to your prayers. God has a purpose for taking you through the situation you are experiencing. He will ultimately bring glory to Himself in your life if you refuse to faint.