

Discussion Questions

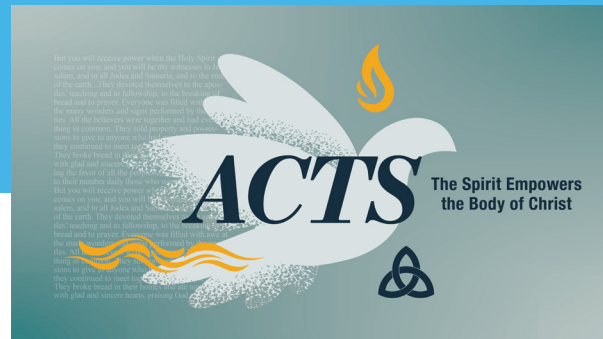
June 29, 2025

Acts 23:12–26:32 Peace in the Waiting

1. What is something that you have been praying for and waiting on for a long time?
2. Read Acts 23:11 and then 24:24-27
What stands out to you from Paul's experience of waiting in prison? How do you think he felt during those two years of apparent inactivity and injustice especially in light of God's promise regarding Rome?
3. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19
Habakkuk said he would rejoice in God even when everything was falling apart and he couldn't see God at work. In what ways is Habakkuk's perspective relevant for today?
4. Discuss the connection between Trusting in God and experiencing True Peace.
5. Why can it be unsettling for Christians that for two years in Caesarea, there was no silver lining, no great letters written, no conversions reported for Paul, he just waited? How does this challenge the way we often think about God using hardship?
6. Discuss the difference between Waiting on God to change our circumstances and waiting on God Himself?
What does it look like to Wait on God and not just wait on Him to change our circumstances?
7. James shared that Biblical waiting is not just passive, it involves active trust and continued faithfulness as we see with Paul & Habakkuk. What does it look like to actively, not passively, trust in the midst of hardship or waiting?

What does faithfulness look like, practically, in these tough seasons?

8. Share any area you feel like you are staring at the "4 prison walls" waiting, ongoing or enduring hardship that won't lift and pray for one another.



Acts 24:22–26 (NLT)

At that point Felix, who was quite familiar with the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, "Wait until Lysias, the garrison commander, arrives. Then I will decide the case." He ordered an officer to keep Paul in custody but to give him some freedom and allow his friends to visit him and take care of his needs. A few days later Felix came back with his wife, Drusilla, who was Jewish. Sending for Paul, they listened as he told them about faith in Christ Jesus. As he reasoned with them about righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment, Felix became frightened. "Go away for now," he replied. "When it is more convenient, I'll call for you again." He also hoped that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him.

Acts 23:11 (NIV)

"Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

Acts 23:12–15 (NLT)

The next morning a group of Jews got together and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty of them in the conspiracy. They went to the leading priests and elders and told them, "We have bound ourselves with an oath to eat nothing until we have killed Paul. So you and the high council should ask the commander to bring Paul back to the council again. Pretend you want to examine his case more fully. We will kill him on the way."

Acts 24:23–27 (NLT)

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Acts 26:22-23 (NLT)

But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen - that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Acts 26:24 (NLT)

Suddenly, Festus shouted, "Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!"

Acts 26:25-26 (NLT)

But Paul replied, "I am not insane, Most Excellent Festus. What I am saying is the sober truth. And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner!

Acts 26:27-28 (NLT)

King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—"

Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?"

Acts 26:29 (NLT)

Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains."

Steve Linscott

I have come to realize that we cannot judge God's purposes, nor where He places us, nor why He chooses one path for our lives as opposed to another.

Habakkuk 2:3–4 (NLT)

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

the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.

Habakkuk 3:16–19 (NLT)

I will wait quietly for the coming day... Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

How do we experience Peace in the Waiting?

1. We must trust in God's character, not our circumstances.
2. Biblical waiting is not passive, but involves active trust and continued obedience & faithfulness
3. Be faithful in the small things

Waiting on God, is just that... Waiting on God... NOT waiting to get what I want

The invitation today is to Not simply to wait for your circumstances to change but to focus more on waiting on the God who never changes.

Biblical waiting is active trust and continued faithfulness.