



WILLIAMS CHAPEL CHURCH
Chief Apostle Kimberly Nixon, Pastor



LIVING IN THE TENSION

Living in the tension between what is visible and what God has promised is one of the defining experiences of the life of faith. It is the place where your natural eyes report one reality while God's Word declares another. Faith does not deny what is visible; it refuses to let what is visible have the final authority.

Consider these biblical examples:

Abraham saw an aged body and a barren womb yet believed the promise of countless descendants (Romans 4:18–21).

Joseph received dreams of leadership but endured betrayal, slavery, and prison before the promise was fulfilled (Genesis 37–50).

David was anointed king but lived for years as a fugitive before wearing the crown (1 Samuel 16–2 Samuel 5).

The disciples saw a crucified Savior, while God was preparing a resurrected King.

The tension exists because **God often gives the promise before He reveals the process.**

What this tension feels like:

- Your circumstances seem to contradict God's Word.
- Delay begins to test your confidence.
- You wonder whether God has forgotten you.
- Your emotions fluctuate between hope and discouragement.
- You must decide daily whether to interpret God's promise through your circumstances or your circumstances through God's promise.

The purpose of the tension

God uses this place to:

- Deepen your trust.
- Purify your motives.
- Strengthen your endurance.
- Develop Christlike character.
- Prepare you to carry what He has promised.

As Paul wrote:

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

And the writer of Hebrews reminds us:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith becomes most visible when there is no visible evidence.



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There is a difference between **waiting on a promise** and **waiting in unbelief**. Waiting on a promise is active. It continues to worship, obey, pray, serve, and hope while refusing to surrender the promise God has spoken.

The visible says,
"Nothing is changing."

The promise says,
"I am working, even when you cannot see it."

The visible says,
"You are surrounded."

The promise says,
"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

The visible says,
"This is impossible."

The promise says,
"With God all things are possible."

Living in the Tension Between What Is Visible and What God Has Promised:

Faith is the bridge that enables us to stand confidently between present reality and future certainty.

Three movements:

1. **What I See** – the reality of present circumstances.
2. **What God Said** – the certainty of His covenant promises.
3. **How I Stand** – choosing faith, obedience, and endurance until the visible aligns with what God has spoke.

A fitting anchor scripture is **2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (KJV)**:

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

The word "**temporal**" means temporary, passing, and subject to change. God's promises belong to the eternal realm, and they are not altered by temporary circumstances.

This truth reminds us that we are not called to ignore reality, but to interpret reality through the lens of God's unchanging Word. The tension is not a sign that God has failed; it is often the place where faith matures before the promise manifests.

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