



**In Times
Like These:
Keep the Faith!**
Habakkuk 2:1-4

Have You Noticed That the Bible Is Replete With God's Children Asking God Questions?

- A childless couple facing an unfulfilled promise asked, ***“Will a child be born to a man a hundred years old?” Genesis 17:17***

“Will Sarah give birth to a child at 90?” (These questions from Abraham to God were meant to question God, after He had promised him a son; (Abraham actually fell down laughing)

- When everything had fallen apart, his health, his family, his personal fortune, and there was literally nothing left, Job couldn't help but ask: Job 10:8-9, ***“Your hands have shaped me and made me. Will you now turn around and destroy me?” Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again?”***
- In the face of a storm that threatened to take their lives, the disciples find Jesus asleep in their small boat, and awaken Him with the question: ***“Master don't you care if we drown?” Mark 4:38***

Observations

- After being ridiculed by a priest, denounced by his family, rejected by his friends, and having other respected prophets contradict and laugh at him, Jeremiah the prophet, asked God, *“Why was I even born?”* *Jeremiah 20:14*

These Questions Resemble Our Questions to God

- They are asked in the face of unfulfilled promises (like ours)
- They are asked in the face of personal tragedies (like ours)
- They are asked on our lips when we face difficult people who try to steal our joy, or when we face imminent danger, or face what we believe is “undeserved punishment.”

Habakkuk Stands in the Middle of God's Children Questioning His Actions With Regard to Their Lives

- One peculiarity of Habakkuk is that he never says a word to another person in his whole book
- In the whole book of Habakkuk, he is not shy to ask God about the problems he is confronting in his own life
- He opens the book with a question of frustration; chapter 1 verse 2:

“How long must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save?

Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrong doing?”

(Don't These Questions Sound Familiar To You?)

- Habakkuk was living during difficult times. As he looks around and sees injustice as seemingly a natural part of life
Here is a child of God with questions for God

God: Why Don't You Do Something?

Have You Ever Felt the Same Way?

- In the wake of a personal tragedy
- When you're waiting for something good to happen and the only thing that seems to follow bad stuff is more bad stuff
- Have you ever wanted to wake up God and say: "God, don't you see what's happening here?" or "I've been mistreated and disrespected!" or "I need my revenge!" or "My child is not going to make it like this!" "What will happen to my children in their generation?" "Will I make it through COVID 19?" "Will my family make it?"

"God, You've Got To Do Something!"

- Habakkuk questions why God let pain and evil continue on earth
- In chapter 1:6-13, God answers and explains that He is going to punish the wickedness of Israel by allowing the Babylonians (Chaldeans), to destroy the southern kingdom (Judah). Habakkuk is not satisfied with that answer
- Now he struggles with the idea that God would use the most ruthless and most terrible people (the infamous Babylonians) to condemn the Jewish nation, whom he thought at least, were more Godly than the Babylonians (Chaldeans). *Not Necessarily! (The law of Exposure and Accountability) Romans 2:14-16; 2Peter 2:20-22)*
- As you read through the text you will find that Habakkuk did not receive all of the answers he was searching for, **BUT** through his questions he came to a conclusion that empowered him spiritually, to move on.

But Look At His Resolve!

Habakkuk 3:19 (N.I.V.)

“The sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights (places of trouble, suffering, or responsibility) Amplified Bible

Question: What changed between his questions in chapter 1 and his confidence here in chapter 3?

Answer: The realization that he came to in Habakkuk 2:4

“See, the enemy is puffed up (proud); his desires are not upright—but the righteous (just) person will live by faith.”

Remember that these are the same words that the Apostle Paul “latched on to,” as he explains how to live a Christian life

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

***God Rewards Each Child in Their Faithful Walk
With Him!***

What Does That Mean? Righteous People (The Just) Live By Faith!

Trusting and Obeying God When It Seems Irrational!

- **When you feel like you've been betrayed, it means that you trust God and still forgive like He told you to; Don't seek your own revenge. The Righteous Live By Faith! Romans 12: 19
"Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord"**
- **When you watch somebody get ahead by doing wrong, remember: The Righteous Live By Faith! Meaning, that you don't do the same thing in order to catch up (Why? Because you know that God will reward your obedience)**

"Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for fear of the Lord." Proverbs 23:17; Hebrews 11:6

The Righteous Shall Live By Faith!

- When you are being controlled by a habit that is overpowering you, remember, “The Righteous Shall Live By Faith!” Meaning, you trust God enough to give you the strength to exhibit some self control; 1 Corinthians 10:13
- When something happens to you in your life that you can’t control (pandemic, job loss, your health or a family members health changes), remember that “The Righteous Shall Live By Faith!” Meaning, we realize that through our tribulations or difficulties, God can use those tribulations to make us more like Him. Romans 5:3:

“We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope; And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us.”

Observations

- My times of personal tragedy left me more confused spiritually than any other time in my life
- For example, when my son was born 32 years ago, I probably have never cried that much for so long (weeks) when the doctor told me that my son would have a condition for which he would be challenged all of his life
- But as my wife and I look back over those painful years, I think that we have grown in our maturity as a result of those difficult experiences
- We learned like Habakkuk, that God is not one who “*snaps his fingers,*” to quickly fix every situation for his children
- There are some valuable lessons in the painful process of overcoming life’s difficulties that would be lost with a quick fix

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:28

- This verse says that God is using the things that happen to us in this life, to remake us into the image of Jesus
- How in the world do we think we could ever be like Jesus if we didn't suffer or endure hardships and difficulties?

Hebrew 5:8-9; Ephesians 5:15-17

- There will be times in our lives when we, like Habakkuk, will question why God allows us to experience certain difficulties (COVID, Heart Disease, Job loss, Cancers, Family Betrayals)
- My prayer for you, is that ***“In Times Like These,”*** when difficulties appear in your life, instead of retreating from God, join with Habakkuk, Abraham, Job, Jesus' disciples, and even Jesus Himself with Faith in a loving and all wise God

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38