



Empowering People to Change the World

Habakkuk: How do we Walk by Faith in Perplexing
Times?

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The Lord's Prayer

Habakkuk: A Pilgrimage to Higher Ground (graphic)

This amazing book takes place as the evil Babylonians are about to sack Jerusalem. It's a time of moral and spiritual decay in Judah. Habakkuk is crying out to God and God speaks to him that it is indeed His plan to give over Judah to the Babylonians. Habakkuk is shocked and bewildered.

Habakkuk doesn't understand what God is doing

- He has argued with God.
- He has tried to persuade God.
- He has used moral and religious reasoning with God.
- And now Habakkuk settles down and realizes there is only ONE THING he can do.

Today is very practical and we will only look at one verse. Here is our lesson from Habakkuk:

The Lesson from Habakkuk: How do we Walk by Faith in Perplexing Times?

Habakkuk has shared his complaint with God; he has heard God's response, and then he has once again poured out his heart.

Habakkuk has nothing more to say!

Habakkuk 2:1-4

**"I will stand my watch
And set myself on the rampart,
And watch to see what He will say to me,
And what I will answer when I am corrected."**

- Habakkuk still doesn't understand what God is doing, but what he does understand is that he must trust God on a whole new level.
- How many of you know that God doesn't reveal ALL of His plans to us?
- The walk of faith, the trust we place in God, is never more tested than those times when we have no idea what God is up to.

Habakkuk sees that the Babylonians are coming. God has told him that He is giving Judah over to these violent people.

We observe the growing power of China and it seems nothing is being done.

Habakkuk sees the social, moral, and spiritual downfall of Judah.

I look at the rise of socialism and what I would call, *soft totalitarianism*, in our nation and the corruption in our government that seems to never be litigated. No one goes to prison. Whistleblowers comes forward and it seems nothing is done. It seems that the media and corporations don't care. Where is God?

- These are Habakkuk's questions. He is perplexed and confused but Habakkuk is on a journey to the higher ground.

Maybe in your life, you are in a time of confusion about your health, your finances, your family, or your marriage.

- Habakkuk is not going to stay where he is. He is making a shift from fear to faith. **Watch what Habakkuk does. Look at what we can learn from this prophet.**

How do we Walk by Faith in Perplexing Times? What can we Learn from Habakkuk?

Verse 1

**“I will stand my watch
And set myself on the rampart.”**

Habakkuk Sets Himself on Higher Ground.

- The picture here is of a high tower, a watch tower. Usually situated in the middle of an agricultural field with a guard to watch over the fields, but even behind the city walls, there were watch towers that had the vantage point of seeing an enemy coming.
- Habakkuk has told God what he thinks. He has complained and even argued with God and now he must decide what he will do.
- Habakkuk is setting himself up in a watch tower to seek God. He has made his complaint known (chapter 1) but now he is setting himself in place to hear from God.

- When we come to those things we don't understand. When we are struggling to see how God could be doing or not doing something, we must set ourselves up to hear from God.

How do we walk by faith in difficult times? Habakkuk will give us three lessons today.

**Lesson from Habakkuk:
Leave the Valley of Worry and
Set Yourself on the Higher Ground.**

- You must choose to leave the *valley of doubt*, the *valley of worry*, and climb up to the higher ground.

Let's look at Psalm 24.

- **We need a strong tower too! In Proverbs we read,**

**“The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10).**

- Give your problems to God. The valley of worry is when we worry, fret, and agonize over stuff.
- The valley of worry is the place of depression, anxiety, and panic.
- Habakkuk sets himself up on the higher ground through faith!
- Faith is found in the tower of the name of the Lord.
- Faith must take over our doubt. Most believers stay too long in the valley of worry.
- Instead of trying to figure things out, we say *I'm going to the high tower; I'm seeking God and God alone for wisdom for answers for help.*

**“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of
God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).**

- Prayer with thanksgiving!! The supernatural secret of the Christian.

- We leave the valley of worry and move to the higher ground through prayer and taking everything to God. Giving all our worries, doubts, and problems to God.
- That's how God has spoken to Liz and I about changes in our lives: the move from Japan back to the US...California to Colorado Springs...launching The Road Church...
- One of the great secrets of the Christian Journey—the road less traveled is this very thing:

**Stop Worrying and Start Praying.
Give Everything to God and Leave it with Him.**

- Leave the valley of worry and climb up the mountain of faith!
- This is literally how you do it. You must extricate yourself from the problem and leave it with God.

Verse 1

**“I will stand my watch
And set myself on rampart (the higher ground—the high tower)
And watch to see what God will say to me,
And what I will answer when I am corrected.”**

Habakkuk chooses to wait on God.

- Habakkuk doesn't have any more comebacks with God. He wants God to clearly speak to him.
- Habakkuk determines to watch and listen for God.

**Lesson from Habakkuk:
Watch and Wait on God.**

- We go to the higher ground in prayer. We leave the valley of worry and move to the mountain of faith in prayer.
- We position ourselves on the higher ground and wait on God to speak.

God rewards those who wait on Him:

“Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:5).

“Truly my soul silently *waits* for God; From Him *comes* my salvation. He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *He is* my defense; I shall not be greatly moved” (Psalm 62:1-2).

“Blessed *are* all those who wait for Him” (Isaiah 30:18).

For since the beginning of the world *Men* have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him” (Isaiah 64:4).

How do we Wait on God?

- 1. Go to the High Ground alone with God.**
- 2. Pray-Ask God to Speak to you.**
- 3. Read your Bible.**
- 4. Watch and Listen.**

Now Look at our verse: “see what He will speak to me.”

Lesson from Habakkuk: Expect God to Speak.

- Habakkuk totally expects God to speak to him.
- You must look for the answer.
- Habakkuk is like a military watchman. He’s expecting God to speak to him.
- You must be militant on this. Climb the tower and don’t act until you hear from God.

Five Ways God Speaks Today

- 1. God Speaks in your Spirit.**
 - If you are a believer, a disciple of Jesus, God uses the Holy Spirit to speak to you in your own spirit.
 - The Amplified Bible reads, “what He will say within me.”

- We can't get away from the impression, the feeling, the sense of the right thing to do.
- I think most of the time, we know what to do and our Spirit-filled common sense guides us.

2. God Speaks from His Word.

- You are reading God's Word and this strange insight comes to you from a verse. You know God is speaking to you.
- Ninety percent of everything you need to know comes from God's Word.
- By daily spending time in the Word, you know God's answer to most of your problems.

3. God Speaks as we Listen in Prayer.

- You are praying about it, getting quiet before God, and you have this thought, this idea, and you have a peace that comes with it.

4. God Speaks through Wise Counsel.

- You ask for wisdom from godly people—not just people you know—but godly biblically oriented people.
- You go to people with fruitfulness in their lives. They make good decisions, and you can tell they know how to walk with God!
- I have a number of wise counselors in my life. About three years ago I was struggling with a decision I needed to make about a relational situation and I sought wise counsel—legal and spiritual.

5. God Speaks through Visions and Dreams.

- We are living in the last days and God has prophesied that He speaks to us through visions and dreams.

In Acts 2, Peter preaches at Pentecost:

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it

is *only* the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.””

God gave Liz a clear dream about our move from Okinawa to Colorado Springs.

God gave me a clear dream about The Road.

How do we Walk by Faith in Perplexing Times?

- 1) Leave the valley of worry and set yourself on the higher ground.
- 2) Watch and wait on God.
- 3) Expect God to speak to you.

**Next Week: Lesson from Habakkuk:
Visions and Dreams from God**