

Understanding the Message of Habakkuk
Habakkuk 2:1-4 (p. 998)

Intro

I. As the people of God, we are sometimes _____ by God's dealings...

We may be frustrated and even _____ by unanswered prayers and by the presence of _____ in the world, and sometimes we cannot _____ the things that God does or allows to happen.

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. "Look among the nations and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome... Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves... they fly like an eagle swift to devour. (Hab. 1:1-8)

Ask and it will be given to you...everyone who asks receives... (Matt. 7:7,8)

You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:2,3)

At times, there is a _____ between what God does and what we think is _____, resulting in an almost uneasy and _____ relationship with God.

Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One?O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he? You make mankind like the fish of the sea...He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.... Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever? 1:12-17

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. 2:1

II. But we must live by _____!

...we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)

The life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

This tension we sometimes feel with God does _____ mean that we have no faith; it is actually _____ of faith and a means of _____ our faith.

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Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? (Job 12:9)

True faith is not believing whatever you _____ to believe, nor is it a means of _____ whatever you want; faith is trusting God even when we don't _____ (or like) what He is doing.

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. v.1-4

While God's ways are often mysterious, they are always _____, and they are always gracious; seek the Lord and _____ Him for those things you don't understand.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:6-9)

Faith in Jesus Christ is the means by which we are _____ and the means by which we persevere; we are justified by faith, and we are _____ by faith.

...the righteous shall live by his faith. v.4

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:16,17)

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." (Gal. 3:10,11)

...do not throw away your confidence... For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith...." (Heb. 10:35-38)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 2:14

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail, and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will take joy in the God of my salvation. (Hab.3:17,18)

Jesus Christ is our strong _____; we flee to Him and are saved, and by faith we rise _____ the troubles and difficulties of this life.

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The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (Prov. 18:10)

God the Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. 3:19

The Lord's Supper

Zechariah: "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

The angel Gabriel: "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

The angel Gabriel: "...You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary: "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

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Elizabeth: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." (Luke 1:18-20,31-33,35,37, 38,45)

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Anybody can eat; most anybody can eat and drink. But the blessings of the Lord's Supper can only be received by faith. Physically, anyone is capable of eating and drinking, but the blessings can only be received by faith.

That's why Paul says, let everyone examine themselves, make sure they are of the faith, and then let them eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

If you are not yet able to examine yourself—if you're not old enough to understand what this means, or you don't yet know how you feel about Jesus—if you're not yet ready to make a commitment to Jesus, or if you haven't yet made a public commitment to Jesus, the Lord's Supper is not yet for you...

But for those who have done so, the blessings of the Supper are still received only by faith. By faith we accept...

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