

HABAKKUK 2:4

“LOOK AT THE PROUD! THEY TRUST IN THEMSELVES, AND THEIR LIVES ARE CROOKED. BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY THEIR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD.”

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE BY FAITH?

A: READ **HEBREWS 11:1**

FAITH IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WHAT WE HOPE FOR WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN; IT GIVES US ASSURANCE ABOUT THINGS WE CANNOT SEE.

- FAITH MOVES US CLOSER TO THE REALITY OF EXPERIENCING GOD’S PLAN
- FAITH IS NOT NECESSARILY SOMETHING WE POSSESS OURSELVES, BUT IS MOREOVER THE POWER OF GOD WHICH POSSESSES US – AND COMPELS US TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE PROMISES OF GOD EVEN WHEN THE ODDS OF SUCCESS ARE NOT IN OUR FAVOR

Q: SO, HOW DO WE KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES?

A: READ **HABAKKUK 1:1-4**

- HABAKKUK ASKED QUESTIONS OF GOD
- (1) WHY DOES EVIL GO UNPUNISHED? (2) HOW CAN A JUST GOD USE THE WICKED TO PUNISH HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE?
- HABAKKUK CRIED OUT TO GOD, AGAINST (1) VIOLENCE, (2) LAWLESSNESS, AND THE (3) INJUSTICE HE SAW ALL AROUND HIM

Q: HOW SIMILAR IS HABAKKUK’S SITUATION TO OURS TODAY?

- THE REVELATION OF GOD HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON PEOPLE’S HEARTS
- PEOPLE HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN LIVING BY GOD’S STANDARDS
- THE GODLY WERE RESTRICTED IN WHAT THEY COULD SAY AND DO

Q: MIGHT GOD BE GIVING US A GIFT TODAY, LIKE HE DID WITH THE BIRTH OF HIS SON SO LONG AGO? MIGHT GOD WANT TO BRING US DELIVERANCE TODAY, LIKE HE DID WHEN HE HELPED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL LEAVE EGYPT’S CONTROL?

Q: SO HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE THIS KIND OF CONFIDENCE TODAY?

A: READ **HABAKKUK 1:5-6; 1:12-17; AND 2:1**

- HABAKKUK CRIED TO GOD WANTING ANSWERS TO HIS BURDEN (1:1-4)

- HABAKKUK LISTENED TO GOD (1:5-11)
- HABAKKUK SOUGHT FURTHER CLARITY FROM GOD (1:12-17)
- HABAKKUK STATIONED HIMSELF AS A WATCHMAN (2:1)
- HABAKKUK BEGAN TO ANTICIPATE GOD'S RESPONSE (2:1)
- HE OBEYED GOD BY POSITIONING HIMSELF TO SEE WHAT GOD COULD SEE (2:1)

Q: WHAT DOES GOD SEE THAT YOU AND I ARE NOT SEEING TODAY?

Q: WHERE IS GOD AT WORK TODAY AND HE IS TELLING US TO TAKE NOTICE?

Q: HAVE YOU TAKEN TIME TO SPEAK WITH GOD ABOUT THE NEED YOU FACE? FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GREAT OPPORTUNITY WHICH JUST WON'T GO AWAY AND YOU KNOW THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO PLACE YOUR COMPLETE TRUST IN HIM?

Q: ARE YOU CARRYING A BIG ENOUGH OF A BURDEN THAT YOU KNOW YOU NEED GOD'S MIGHTY HAND TO BRING ABOUT A MIRACLE? BECAUSE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, YOU HAVE COME TO THE END OF YOURSELF AND ARE NOW OUT OF REASONABLE SOLUTIONS – ARE WITH VERY LITTLE STRENGTH – AND UNABLE TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT?

- I BELIEVE GOD WANTS US ALL TO ADMIT THAT WE NEED HIM TODAY.

Q: WILL YOU TRUST HIM TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH AND CLARITY YOU NEED?

- TO LIVE BY HIS FAITH - LET'S CRY OUT TO GOD LIKE HABAKKUK DID.
- TO LIVE BY HIS FAITH - LET'S ASK FOR A GREAT MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE.
- I BELIEVE GOD WILL SHOW HE IS PRESENT & WILL DIRECT OUR VERY STEPS.
- AS MY PROOF, I OPENLY DECLARE THAT I WILL CHOOSE TO NOT ONLY SEEK THE PRESENCE OF GOD TODAY IN MY LIFE, BUT I WILL GO AS FAR AS TO ASK HIM FOR THE COURAGE I NEED TO MOVE FORWARD. I CLAIM THE VERY PROMISES WHICH GOD HAS IN MIND FOR MY LIFE AND ANTICIPATE THAT HE WILL RESPOND IN WAYS THAT ARE ULTIMATELY FOR MY GOOD.
- JUST AS HABAKKUK WAS IN TOUCH WITH GOD, I TOO BELIEVE THAT THE NAME OF JESUS GIVES ME THE AUTHORITY I NEED TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY.