

# Living by Faith in Suffering

Habakkuk 1:1-11

“What are You up to God?” – January 3, 2021



## Introduction

How can we trust God when it seems like the world is falling apart? That's the dilemma Habakkuk, the prophet, was faced with when distressed by the sin, violence, and strife that he witnessed among the people of God living in Judah. He knew God was *able* and that He was *good* (see [1:13](#)) so he was perplexed: why isn't God doing anything? How long will he have to wait? Habakkuk is an honest look at trusting God in a world that's broken by sin.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Bring your concerns to God (1:1-2)
- II. Be concerned about the right thing (1:3-4)
- III. See the plan God has revealed (1:5-11)

## Read & Discuss

1) Read [Habakkuk 1:1-2](#)

In the New Testament, Peter says, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:6-7). This is what the prophet models for with the burden he carried – he came to God in prayer! It was:

- a) Honest prayer – Instead of rebuking the prophet, God welcomes honest prayer in which we pour out our hearts to Him ([Ps. 62:8](#)). Are there things you've been reluctant to come to God with because you assume you should 'get it together' first? Don't wait, come to Him!
- b) Persistent prayer – ‘How long shall I cry...?’ the prophet asked. If God is plan “A” and we have no plan “B” we will keep praying. Why? Because we trust God hears us and His timing is right (see [Luke 8:1-8](#) and [Matthew 7:7-11](#)).
- c) Urgent prayer – Painful circumstances are no fun, but if they help us lean into God in prayer and fellowship with Him, they're worth it!

Additional Reading: John 6:68, 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

2) Read [Habakkuk 1:3-4](#)

Habakkuk's concern was not so much for his own comfort but God's glory. God's people were called to be distinct than the world, set apart, such that the nations would see a different way to live and call on the name of God. Instead, Israel was beginning to look like the world. As Theologian David Wells writes, "Worldliness is whatever makes sin look normal and righteousness look strange."<sup>1</sup> Are there ways sin has become 'normal' to you? How can we identify and turn from sinful blind spots? Three suggestions:

a) Pursue godly friendships - Hebrews 3:13 says "Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

b) Pay care attention to God's word - Hebrews 2:1 We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. What's your *plan* to feast on God's word every day in 2021? Here are a few Bible reading plans to check out:

- i) [The Discipleship Journal Reading Plan](#)
- iii) [M'Cheyne Reading Plans](#) (1 or 2 year plans)
- iv) [Make your own plan](#)

c) Prayer and fasting – Ask God to search your heart and reveal any blind spots. Come to Him with a humble and teachable heart. This Wednesday, consider joining us in fasting and prayer as we seek after God. For more information on this, check out [this article](#).

Additional Reading: James 4:1-2

3) Read [Habakkuk 1:5-11](#)

God revealed to Habakkuk what was needed to trust Him – but that doesn't mean He disclosed everything ([Deut. 29:29](#)). Jesus is God's revealed Word to us. In knowing Him, we know the end and we see God's character so we can trust Him. Take some time to read and discuss [Romans 8:31-39](#). How does knowing this help us trust God together?

Additional Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

\*Next week's sermon text: **Habakkuk 1:12-2:3 "Wait for it..."**

<sup>1</sup> David F. Wells, God in the Wasteland (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), 29