

Living by Faith in Suffering - Habakkuk

[Habakkuk 1:12-2:3](#)

“Wait for it...” – January 10, 2021



Introduction

What do we do when God's plan doesn't make sense? When life's tragedies make us feel like we're drowning? As the prophet Habakkuk wrestled with such perplexing questions, he provides an example for us. Because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever we can be confident in Him.

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. Anchor your hope in the truth of God's character. ([1:12-17](#))
- II. Walk by faith and not by sight ([2:1-5](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1:12-17](#)

Habakkuk is feeling concerned and confused in the midst of so much suffering and the impending judgement. God is going to use an evil nation to discipline his people. What does Habakkuk do with his concerns? He teaches us to look to God's character for encouragement. God is from everlasting. We may not understand what is going on around us at times, but God is not surprised and is immune from all panic – He is the one writing history. Do you feel worried about what's going on in our country and the world today? Take a lesson from Habakkuk this week and trust in the Lord's everlasting control. Look to the Scriptures and see how good our God truly is. He is always at work.

It's important that we, like Habakkuk, see and understand Babylon's wickedness and be bothered by it but we should be most concerned about the wickedness within God's people. Do you take your sin seriously? Do you fight for holiness daily? It should be a normal thing to repent and seek accountability within the church body. We are in this together! If you are working through this guide with a friend or family member take some time now to ask the hard questions about sin in each other's lives. Encourage one another, warn each other, and remind each other who God is from Scripture.

Habakkuk is understandably concerned about God using Babylon to discipline Judah. Will they be annihilated, swallowed up like the other nations? When is the last time you, like Habakkuk, struggled to make sense of God's plans? Are there things you are still trying to make sense of? How do you handle not understanding life's confusing circumstances? We

must anchor our hope in the truth of God's unchanging character! To do that we must know who God says He is in the pages of Scripture. Make it a point this year to know God better by knowing His Word better. Ask fellow church members what they are learning from Scripture. Ask each other what God is doing within your lives and be encouraged that Habakkuk has shown us that its ok to feel sad and express it. Trust in the Lord's plans – the anchor will hold!

Additional Reading: [Isaiah 36-37](#), [Proverbs 16:14](#)

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

Habakkuk has no idea how to answer the people right now who would question God's plan for the people of Judah. He's having trouble with it himself. How do you respond when you don't know how to explain the evil or suffering you see to those who question it? One thing is for sure, is to not explain away things we don't understand or beyond what we know for sure in God's word. God is sovereign over all things including evil ([Eph. 1:11](#), [Gen. 50:20](#)) Yet, He is perfectly just, good and right ([Psalm 145:17](#), [1 Jn. 1:5](#)) - He is not guilty of evil or sin. The Bible teaches us man is responsible *and* that God is sovereign. How does that fit together? It doesn't tell us, but it teaches us that both are true. We must live by faith. What should we do in the midst of difficult situations? We know now to trust God's character, but we should also take God's message and share it with others. The gospel message is God's response to evil. It shows He is both love and just.

The Bible teaches us that if we are not trusting God with every single portion of our life, we are proud. How are you doing living satisfied in God? Trust in Him. The cross and the resurrection guarantee the faithfulness of God - trust in Christ and herald that message. There will be times when we are frightened or let down by the world but be encouraged, we are not home yet. God has promised us to get us home with Him. Let's walk by faith, stick to what we know to be true and walk together as we make our way home ([Heb. 11:14-16](#))

Additional Reading: [Romans 9](#), [Hebrews 10:37](#), [Hebrews 11](#)

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:** we turn to [Habakkuk 2:4-20](#) "Walking by faith"