

Living by Faith in Suffering - Habakkuk

[Habakkuk 3:1-19](#)

"Rejoicing in the Lord" – January 24, 2021



Introduction

How are you doing? Are you struggling right now to fight for joy or to find peace? In the conclusion of the book, Habakkuk shows us that this peace and joy is found in rejoicing in the God who is much bigger than we realize. Such joy (an unshakeable contentment) is not easy to arrive at – but with God's help it is possible and worth it.

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. Submit to God in prayer. ([3:1-2](#))
- II. Remember God's past mighty deeds. ([3:3-15](#))
- III. Rejoice in the Lord ([3:16-19](#))

Read & Discuss

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

Do you ever get nervous to pray, because God might answer that prayer? We will never have true joy if we approach God in that way – trying to be God rather than trust Him. We show others that God is faithful when we chose to follow him even in dark and unsure days. How are you doing trusting God this past year and what have your prayers looked like?

Habakkuk comes to submit to God and His plan even when that plan is painful. How? Because he's learned to see his difficulties in light of who God is. As such He wants God's glory more than anything. Jesus' way of saying this was, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). God's mercy is Him not giving us what we rightfully deserve and knowing God is merciful, Habakkuk submits to God's plan in trust. How can we get to a place where we submit to God's plan as well? A good first step would be to stop obsessing over our troubles that surround us and (like Habakkuk) pray until our hearts trust God and submit to His plan. That's what Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane...for the purpose of our salvation: Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." God disciplines those He love. Are the trials we've gone through this past year confirming your faith or shaking it? God's agenda will not fail. If we want the path to joy, it's found in prayer.

Additional Reading: [Exodus 34:6](#), [Hebrews 12:4-11](#)

2) Read [3:3-15](#)

Do you remember God's mighty deeds? What does your view of God look like right now? Our God has done great and mighty things. He put the fear of Himself into Pharaoh during the exodus. He spoke and brought forth all that we see. He is the one who looks and shakes the nations. It's helpful in times of trouble to meditate on the greatness of our God for God comes to deliver His people in power and God's enemies are brought to nothing before Him. Praise God, we have no need to fear Him if we place our trust in Him. Yet, Habakkuk is living among a people in the crosshairs of God's reproof. What would your response be if you were Habakkuk? His response is to trust in God's character (2:4). It's to live by faith.

Have you been doubting what God is doing this past year? Are you tempted to think the worst about God? The Israelites believed this lie as well that it's better to walk away from God after the Exodus, but they just had to wait. If you're discouraged or depressed, open up your Bible and remember who your God is. His ways are everlasting. He does not change. When is the last time you asked a fellow Christian to share their testimony of what God has done to save them? When is the last time you, yourself, have shared your story of what God has done for you? Take time this week to do both - be encouraged by God's work.

3) Read [3:16-19](#)

Habakkuk was about to see some heartbreaking things. He hears these things and trembles. Does it mean that Habakkuk lacks faith that he trembles? He's wrestling with His faith. Yet, he doesn't abandon ship. He quietly waits and trusts in the Lord. Take comfort that even the prophets of God worry. What do you do with your fear? Habakkuk doesn't ignore the problem or escape it. He trusts in the Lord and submits to Him. He rests and rejoices in the God of His salvation. How did Habakkuk get joy in the midst of the sure pain approaching? How can we get there? He wrestled with God in prayer. He opened up His Bible to see God's character and past deeds until His heart sung with joy. God is not distant and silent. We can look back at the resurrection of Jesus and see that God is far from it. That is enough for us to praise God for all eternity. Take heart that Jesus, God in human flesh, knows our struggles. He alone is our strength.

Additional Reading: [Exodus Chapters 6-14](#), [Isaiah 40:10-15](#), [Romans 8:31-32](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#)

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 [Lamentations 3:21-24](#) "Hoping in the Lord"