



WHEN SUFFERING SHAKES YOUR FAITH

PRECEPT

Habakkuk 3:17–18

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.”

PROMISE

Have you ever been in a situation where you still believe, but you are confused? There's a difference between saying, “God, I don't trust You,” and saying, “God, I trust You, even though I don't understand what You're doing.” We can have faith and still feel confused. We can trust who God is, even when we don't understand what He is doing. Having questions does not necessarily mean that we have lost our faith. Sometimes, it means that our faith is trying to understand something our minds cannot explain. The danger is not that we have questions; the danger is allowing our unanswered questions to pull us away from God.

GOD'S SILENCE DOESN'T MEAN HE ISN'T LISTENING. Habakkuk discovered that although God appeared silent, He had heard every word. God had heard every prayer and had seen every injustice. God's silence was not the same as God's absence. When God seems silent, He is still listening. He hears when we call, and He knows what is happening even when we do not feel His presence.

GOD'S ANSWER MAY NOT MAKE SENSE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE ISN'T WORKING.

Sometimes, the only thing more difficult than God's silence is receiving an answer we do not understand. We prayed for an open door, but He closed it. We prayed for healing, but He gave us strength to endure. We prayed for change, but He chose to change us. God's answer may be different from what we requested, but that doesn't mean He isn't working. His work may not look the way we expected, but He is still working. We see only what is happening today; God sees the entire story.

GOD'S DELAY DOESN'T MEAN HE IS LATE. Habakkuk 2:2–3 says, “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets... For the revelation awaits an appointed time... Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” From Habakkuk's perspective, God appeared slow, but God was working according to His appointed time. God's timing may feel slow to us, but waiting does not mean God has forgotten you. God is never late in accomplishing His purposes.

WORSHIP WHILE YOU WAIT. Faith isn't just trusting God when we understand His answer; it's trusting Him while we wait. Habakkuk didn't understand God's plan, but he knew God was still in control. Habakkuk 3:2 says, “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.” His circumstances had not changed. Nothing was growing, the future was uncertain, and fear remained. Yet Habakkuk chose to rejoice in the Lord. He wasn't rejoicing because life was good, but because God was still good. Worship is not denying your pain. Worship is declaring that your pain does not change who God is. You do not have to wait until everything makes sense before you worship. You can worship God today—not because everything is good, but because God is still good.

Habakkuk 3:19 says, “The Sovereign Lord gives me strength. He makes me sure-footed as a deer. He makes me walk on the mountains.” When you cannot trace God's hand or understand His ways, trust His heart and worship while you wait. Worship may not immediately change your circumstances, but it reminds you that God is still holding you, guiding you, and giving you strength.

PRACTICE

1. **Faith.** Have you ever received an answer from God that was different from what you prayed for? How did you respond?
2. **Still standing.** What helps you remember that God sees the entire story when you can only see today? And how can we pray for you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Heart

- Pray for protection against worldly temptations and negative media.

II. Decisions

- Ask God for clarity and divine direction in major life choices and decisions.

III. Strength

- Pray that He may grant us the strength we need in our everyday lives.

IV. Leaders

- Pray for strength for our elders, leaders, and coordinators.

V. Members

- Pray for our community to grow in relationship with God.

VI. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love and grace as we obey in making disciples.

VII. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and may they not grow weary in well-doing.