


### When life seems unfair...

- God does not leave us without comfort.
- God provides us with a choice which can lead to “life.”
- God promises that He will be present with us always (Judges 6:16; Isaiah 41:10).
- God assures us of hope even when the world seems out of control and our “Whys?” are not answered.

Isaiah 40:27-31 presents the “walk by faith” that is so critical for us to accept.

“Every difficulty is a test - a test to see whether you will believe God. A trial to drive you into His arms and His promises, where you find Him all-sufficient. That is what the book of Habakkuk is about. In Habakkuk we see the difficulty of wondering where God is when bad things happen, and then the delight of discovering He is there, ruling over all.”



### TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. We live “by faith” that brings an absolute trust in God
2. We live “by faith” that does not excuse evil and unbelief
3. We live “by faith” and do not encourage those who reject God
4. We live “by faith” and enjoy a wonderful satisfaction in life

Our Next Lesson: “The Woeful Cost of Pride”

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### LESSON 10 : The Answer to Life’s Dilemmas

*A Study of Habakkuk*

# WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

*John Kachelman Jr.*



## DALRAIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST

No greater joy is found than when you discover the solution to a difficult problem. The scientist may struggle through repeated experiments only to find repeated failure but at last, when the proper formula is tested and success is discovered, there is great joy!

This joy of discovery accompanies the resolution of trials in life - the long-sought answer brings inescapable delight. Such is the situation with Habakkuk in our text.

Habakkuk has been struggling to resolve the perplexing problem of life’s inequities and God’s justice. He confessed his inability to understand how God can tolerate evil and utilize evil to achieve His objective. He tried but no adequate explanation was discovered. He finally decided to “wait” and allow God to reveal the answer. That long-sought answer is revealed in 2:1-20. The prophet’s joy of discovery is found in 3:1-19.

The passage in 2:4, 5 is not only the essential answer to Habakkuk’s perplexity, but it is also a text having a remarkable impact upon all Scripture.

It is quoted three times in the New Testament (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). It calls for an absolute trust in God for all of life's activities. It provides the inspired solution to the dilemma of life's injustices.

When Habakkuk understood the truth stated in 2:4-5 he discovered the answer to his questions. The righteous (those who are just; saved) will live by faith that believes in God's ultimate justice. This calls for believers to maintain a faith that is focused upon God; to possess a radiant hope for a positive future; to trust in a divine vindication of all evil.

This pointedly addressed the evil oppressors who trampled others with selfish greed. All such people will be used by God as instruments of His will to punish sin, but ultimately, they will be punished!

The key is "HIS FAITH." This term refers to a strong fidelity, committed steadfastness, and integrity of purpose. Only those who maintain an ardent trust in God's justice will find "life." Those who do not maintain trust in God find restlessness, ill-content, and emptiness in life (See 2:5b).

This passage provides a contrast illustrating the two options, that men can utilize in order to reconcile life's inequities. God gives us a contrast in worldviews. Those who are proud cannot be upright because they refuse to trust in God; refuse to submit to God; and refuse to admit human potential is inadequate.

Those who are righteous are able to find true "life." They are "just" before God because they have humbled their pride and submitted to God's directions.

Pride may appear to be triumphant as it oppresses and greedily takes from others, but its strength will never last. Humility may appear to be cowering weakness but it provides the only true strength available (Matthew 5:5, 7). Those who live by steadfast devotion to God's will are the only ones to be triumphant in the end!

There are only two attitudes in life - belief and unbelief (Proverbs 4:23). You either live by faith or unbelief. Only those living by faith are able to discover the joyful solution to life's problems.

Habakkuk has been told that evil's injustice will continue for a time (See 2:3). This means the tension between good and evil will continue. However, this conflict will eventually end and injustice will be punished.

Habakkuk's choice is presented to us - if we want to make sure we find "life," we must make sure we are directed by "faith" (fidelity to God). Notice how Habakkuk was urged to do these things...

#### **Consider the possible answers to life's dilemmas.**

How can you resolve life's inequities? How can injustice be answered? There are only two possible ways: The "puffed-up" option relies upon a proud self-reliance which utilizes mortal strength and leads to greater injustice (1 Corinthians 8:1, 2; Proverbs 3:7; 16:25; Ecclesiastes 1:18). The "righteous" option relies upon God by showing humility, submission, and dependence upon

God's revealed commands (Deuteronomy 29:4; Job 11:5, 6; Psalm 32:8; 1 Corinthians 3:18).

When you are confronted with dilemmas in life you will have these two options from which to choose. Do not lean upon mortal wisdom; trust in God's wisdom!

#### **Consider the result of choosing how to explain injustices.**

What results when we choose one of the above options? Those who choose to rely upon human pride/wisdom will find that their soul is not "right." Perplexity will persist! (See 2:5). Those who choose to rely upon God will find "life" (Philippians 4:4-6). When you are faced with the perplexities of life's inequities, remember your choice will lead you to one of the two results. Trust in God is the only choice that brings the desired results.

#### **Consider the contrast in the methodology for resolving inequities.**

How will we explain injustices so earthly experiences will make sense? Those who depend upon mortal understanding utilize mortal resources. But human resources are woefully inadequate - they cannot provide a proper answer (Isaiah 5:21; 29:14b; Jeremiah 9:23; 1 Timothy 6:20). Those who submit to God utilize "faith" to resolve life's inequities (Proverbs 28:5; Isaiah 33:6).

#### **Consider why "faith" was the best method to use in resolving life's dilemmas.**

*By faith one ACCEPTS* life's trials (Psalm 64:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 13, 16-18; 2 Timothy 2:11-13).

*By faith one LIVES* righteously.

The believer cannot explain all of life but the believer can confidently live because of faith (Galatians 5:5; Jeremiah 17:5-8).

*By faith one OVERCOMES* obstacles (Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:28).

This faith will not prevent trials in life but it will allow us to overcome their adversity (Psalm 73:26; 42:5; 1 Timothy 4:10; 2 Timothy 1:12).

*By faith one ANTICIPATES REWARD* (Revelation 2:10; 17:14; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

*By faith one discovers a wonderful SATISFACTION* (Philippians 4:11-14; 2 Corinthians 4:8, 9).

#### **Answering Life's Inequities...**

All struggling with life's inequities must answer a simple query - "What is the controlling principle in my life?" Is it faith that God will work out all things or is it confidence that I have the resources to work out all things?

- Those who look with faith find answers to life's dilemmas - evil does exist but it will not endure!
- Those who walk with faith will find peace even in adversity (John 14:27).