

What am I living by?

The walk of faith in the real world of wrestling and questioning leads us to remember God's character, who He has revealed Himself to be in His Word. We are led to seek God's perspective rather than relying solely on our own. Then we wait for God's response. We mentioned this is an active waiting that dives into God's Word and searches for His answers to whatever we're wrestling with. We trust God's conclusion, where He is going, and how He is getting there even in the face of our questions and lack of understanding. At the core of this walk of faith is surrender. Will I surrender to fully trust God and be numbered among His righteous?

Before you run on with your week, take some time to check in with God.

Check-In: Am I living by faith?

- How am I trusting God with my family? My spouse? My children?
- How am I demonstrating trust in God in my work? My finances? My future?
- Is there an area of my life where I'm not trusting God? What is it? Why?
- Do the questions of life I'm wrestling with lead me away from God or closer to Him?

**Who can I share these questions and answers with?
Who will go with me in this walk of faith?**

Trusting God: A Study in Habakkuk

Faith in Real Life

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Last week we started to look into Habakkuk's struggle with Judah, God's people. In despair, the prophet cried out to God about the evil and sin that he saw all around him. Where was God? Why does He seem silent in the face of this mess?

Then we saw that God responded. God answered Habakkuk. He is not silent. He does see what is happening and He is at work among the nations to bring about His purposes for His people.

But the answer doesn't satisfy Habakkuk. This week we will focus on round two of the prophet's questions. Habakkuk's follow-up questions are legitimate. He wants to understand who God is, His character. But even greater than Habakkuk's wrestling for understanding, as we stated last week, is God's desire for His people to know who He is. When life gets real, when evil and danger surround us, we must center our lives on knowing God, trusting who He is and what He is doing despite what we see.

What does faith in real life look like?

Faith in real life...

God's character (12).

Even while wrestling with what God is doing and how He is doing it, the prophet's faith in God reminds him of His character. God is so beyond the prophet. Habakkuk must remember who God is and who man is not.

Faith in the real struggles of life requires that we remember the character of God. If we don't do this, the questioning and wrestling will overwhelm us. Doubt will settle in and possibly pull our focus away. That is not what we see here in Habakkuk. His questioning

and wrestling for understanding pull him to God because he grounds himself on what and who He knows God to be.

God's perspective (13-17).

The Chaldeans worship their might, their own strength. They have profited and live so well at the expense of the nations. How is it the godless prosper? Not only do they prosper, but they boast and rejoice in their self-made, "I did it my way" lifestyle. Habakkuk wants to know, how can this be? How can God who is good, holy, perfect, beautiful, have anything to do with such evil that exists in the Chaldeans? Why would God choose to work through such evil?

For some of us, Habakkuk's tone and language here borders on the inappropriate. Who is Habakkuk to question? But at least we see in his questioning and perhaps even accusations, the prophet is seeking God, desiring to know and understand God's perspective.

What about us? Have we stopped seeking God's perspective?

on God's response (2:1).

Habakkuk is lamenting, questioning, and asking God his real heart questions. He cares. He cares for God's people, but he also cares to know God and God's will. So Habakkuk actively waits. He stations himself on the tower awaiting God's response.

How does this translate to us today? How do we actively await God's response to our questions? I don't know of any other answer but to actively study and search through God's Word that He has given us.

If you're praying and asking God difficult questions about whatever you're walking through, but not opening and reading His Word, I would dare to guess that you're frustrated or disheartened by the one-way communication.

Left on our own, we are likely to miss the point or come to all sorts of conclusions about life and what's going on. God has not left us on our own to figure it out. He is communicating clearly to us through the Word He has given us.

God's conclusion (2-3).

God is confident of what He is showing Habakkuk and His people. There may be all sorts of uncertainty and questions on Habakkuk's side, but there is none on God's side. He tells His prophet to write it down clearly. Make it easy to read. There is a vision yet future when God will address and deal specifically and completely with the Chaldeans, but also with all nations who live as the Chaldeans do.

We are left with the question, are we going to trust God's Word and His timing? Or are we going to attempt to take matters into our own hands? Are we going to live for our end or His?

fully to God (4-5).

Do you see the contrast God makes here regarding the evil Chaldeans and those righteous who live according to His way? The Chaldeans are a proud people. They have no integrity. Wine and wealth betray them. Arrogant. Restless. Never satisfied. Always wanting and taking more. They even gather and consume the nations.

In contrast to the Chaldeans and treacherous Judah, the righteous remnant will live by faith. God's people will trust Him. They will trust who He says He is. They will trust what He is doing in their current circumstances and the world that surrounds them.

In the real world where questions abound and a lack of understanding is common, the ***faithful live grounded upon their assurance and dependence upon God.***