

Trusting God: A Study in Habakkuk

# The Correct Stance

Habakkuk 3:16-19

## Get Ready!

For any of us who have spent time learning and/or playing a sport, we know a stance is learned. And if we're going to be any good, we better learn it well. Every sport seems to have a slightly different stance that is taught to play well and win.

At the end of Habakkuk, the prophet teaches us what the correct God-centered stance for our lives should look like. It is quite different from the stance the prophet had at the beginning of this short book. It is a stance that we also need to learn. It doesn't come naturally. We must learn and practice it. It is a stance that applies even now, or maybe I should say, especially now, as we seek to follow and live for Jesus in our day.

The correct stance for every Christian in every area of life is grounded by trust in God.

## The Trusting God Stance

... starts with quiet \_\_\_\_\_ (16).

At the beginning of this short book, we saw the prophet deep in questioning, bordering on accusations. The prophet seemed to place himself in the mindset that he knew better than God. He questioned God, "Why do I see and hear these things, but You don't see or hear them? You should do something, but you're not!" God answered Habakkuk. God reminded Habakkuk that He does see everything. Nothing is getting by Him.

Given all of this, the prophet's questioning and accusations are replaced by quiet expectation. The prophet chooses to trust who God has revealed Himself to be and thus will quietly wait for God to work.

Let's not minimize the difficulty of such trust. When life is easy and things are generally going well, trust is not tested. The testing comes when life is hard. When the present or the future is scary. When a relationship or circumstance feels impossible. When God seems silent. When evil looks like it will win the day, our trust is tested. **See and remember who God is.** And let the knowledge of who He is, strengthen your trust, your quiet expectation that He will do His perfect will in Your life and the circumstance you are facing.

... turns into \_\_\_\_\_ rejoicing (17-18).

In this agricultural society, what Habakkuk is describing here is a complete economic collapse. He is seeing the coming complete devastation of all the things that sustain his life and community.

As the prophet considers the reality of God bringing the Chaldeans against Judah and removing the people from the promised land, there will be destruction, a great loss in the midst of that. But verse 18 states Habakkuk's intentional response, "I will rejoice..." Not in my circumstances.

We are increasingly living in days where to express joy or to rejoice is an act of protest or defiance. We are inclined to anger, encouraged to be fearful. The norm is to be upset or not trust anyone but ourselves. Trusting God with a quiet calm and joy is counter-cultural in our day of outrage and shouting.

**Which cause will you join?** Habakkuk shows us that our peace, our calm, and our joy are not based on our circumstances nor even our understanding. It's not based on things going our way. We can rejoice in any season, in any circumstance, in any pandemic, in any election year, in any diagnosis, in any uncertainty because of who God is.

... is \_\_\_\_\_ by God (19).

The focus of these final verses of Habakkuk is obvious. It's God! Habakkuk was focused on Judah or the Chaldeans. He was focused on what they were or were not doing. It's clear now Habakkuk has fixed his eyes on God.

Can we be encouraged and strengthened by other relationships and circumstances in our lives? Sure. Absolutely. But people and situations are ever-changing. If our stance in life is based on our spouse, our children, a friendship, a particular outcome, or financial security, we will easily be shaken or knocked over by our ever-changing life. Only God is certain in our lives that are filled with uncertainty. Only God can supply us with the strength and footing that is needed to face whatever is coming.

**How's your stance?**

How's your stance this morning? Are you working on it? It takes practice. Quiet calm is not normal in our world. Willful rejoicing is not a natural response. We are more likely to be encouraged and strengthened by things going the way we want them than by the truth and presence of God at work in our lives.

Make these three commitments with Habakkuk:

1. I will wait quietly for God to work His plan.
2. I will rejoice in the God of my salvation, not my circumstances.
3. I will trust in God's strength to sustain me.

Our neighbors, our friends, and our families need to see God enabling us to live with this stance. The world needs to see there is a source of hope and joy that sustains us beyond our circumstances. May we leave here today and live from this stance that God has taught us from His prophet Habakkuk.

**The Sovereign LORD is our strength!**