

The Work of Faith Pt. 5

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3, Wednesday, April 24, 2024

The Work of Faith Pt. 5

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

God's Astonishing Answer:

- I. Pay attention and you will see my work.
- II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways.
- III. Trust My Word to bring justice to all.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. Vv. 12-17

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; **when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,**

2 Samuel 7:14

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

The LORD is my **rock** and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2

“**The Rock!** His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. 18 “You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth. Deuteronomy 32:4, 18

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, **my rock** and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“Habakkuk has two alternatives now. ‘ He can allow his doubts to be either destructive or creative. He can use his doubts, struggles, and agonizing questions to turn from God and to renounce his faith. Or he can keep his hold on God, trusting him for an answer.’”

J. N. Boo Heflin in Waylon Bailey NAC Commentary

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. vv. 12-17
- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1

What does Habakkuk 2:1 include in the work of faith and what is required to do this work?

- Keep Watch – waiting
- Stop speaking in order to listen
- Steadfast in trust in God (stayed in his role) while waiting
- There will be a correct judgment when God speaks
- Active alertness (work of watching and preparing for response)
- Value to goal of waiting (shows value of relationship with God & His will)
- Work to see above & beyond and discipline to maintain post
- Heb. 11:6 He is, and He rewards those who seek Him (fear God)
- Wrestling & waiting (two seem opposed)
- Believes God will respond
- Ps. 32:8-9 positive and negative instruction of yielding to God's training

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

Why must a prophet wait for God's word and prepare for how to respond to it?

- Spokesmen for God, so must get what He says
- Not just about quick answer – God speaking to heart – part of waiting is to create right posture to receive God's word
- To keep us from presuming on God's response
- To quiet other voices and to weaken other influences
- Ez. 2 – asked to say and do hard things (the people won't listen but still must speak)
- Because God's sovereignty (His ways not our ways) if don't wait, then not yielding to His sovereignty - What does waiting include? Continuing under His reign with rest of those implications
- Prepare for and answer to be different than what we want it to be – What does that include?

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

On your walls, O Jerusalem, **I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent.** You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; 7 And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 62:6–7

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Habakkuk needed “to know how to respond to God’s ways, both in his assessment of injustice and in his conduct amid the consequences of injustice. He revealed a mature wisdom in his determination that this response be shaped by what God himself would say. **It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers.**”

Carl E. Amerding *EBC*

What would be required to get our answers to our questions about God from God?

- Must be intentional to look for all the means God uses to reveal His answers
- Continue to honor rest of commands & see His provision & worshipping
- Prayer – wider than our want/needs, include prayer for provision in response to happenings
- In His Word wider than what you think you need
- Ask the questions – even in our private prayer, not clear with questions
- Be fairly certain that you will get those answers from God (more work to go to God, to find answers from His means)
 - Heb.11:11 Sarah believed God that she would conceive
- Desire must truly be there for God's answer
- Biblical interpretation upward spiral – as we ask questions & then learn more about Him, then our questions become more in line with His will & stop looking for answers to your questions & see what learn about God so ask better questions.

What would be required to get our answers to our questions about God from God?

CONTINUATION...

- Even Paul called on other believers to intercede for Him in face of hardship for face & will of God
- Humble – to acknowledge who God is & His right to withhold answer until He is ready
- Honesty – about what see, liability, understanding
- I John 5 – evidence for Christ, place of spirit should be just as powerful as seeing Christ baptized or dying for us (I John 3:24) Romans 8
- Be clear with what Scripture is answering & when we are to just wait or live in relationship with Him even without answer

What would be required to get our answers to our questions about God from God?

1. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured.

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1. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured.

It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Psalm 119:71

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry all of them up, And a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in Me will inherit the land And will possess My holy mountain.”

Isaiah 57:13

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:14–16

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7–9, 13

What do you wish your children would do in their response to you when they don't understand or when things seem unlivable or unfair?

- Listen, trust, and do
- Trust that I am working for their flourishing, not demise.
- Another perspective, another person with pressure, another need.
- There's more and I might have some of that more.
- Not create massive scheme based only on their reality
- Initiate dialogue rather than shut down
- Talking from prosecutor position or disgruntled employee.
- Not see whole mountain of problems as a whole responsibility apart from provision and wisdom
- Look through another's eyes including another role with more responsibility than you have

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

God doesn't merely have best vantage point of your situation; He has the best vantage point of His situation and your place in that situation.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, “**Blessed are you who are poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 “**Blessed are you who hunger now**, for you shall be satisfied. **Blessed are you who weep now**, for you shall laugh. 22 “**Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.** 23 “Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. 24 “**But woe to you who are rich**, for you are receiving your comfort in full. 25 “**Woe to you who are well-fed now**, for you shall be hungry. **Woe to you who laugh now**, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 “**Woe to you when all men speak well of you**, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way. 27 “**But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.** **Luke 6:20–28**

What would be required to get our answers to our questions about God from God?

1. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured.
2. Widen your circle to include others under God.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“The prophet is right in the position he takes with respect to his own role in the resolution of this perplexing issue. He will not attempt to reconcile in his own mind the apparent contradiction between the election of Israel by God as the object of his special love and the devastation of Israel at the hands of the rapacious Chaldeans as ordered by the Lord himself. He will not resort to the resources of human wisdom. Instead, he will watch for an answer that can come only from the Lord”

O. Palmer Robertson

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Lessons About Faith

1. **There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.**
2. **Neither you nor they are in control over circumstances. God is. Trust God to undergird and glorify Himself through you by continuing to work and worship while you wait for His answers.**

What keeps us from continuing to work and worship while we do the work of waiting for His answers?

- Obsess over situation so there is no more room for the rest of what God is doing
- Needing all of the answers before continuing – meaning that our living is based on our understanding before we continue
- 1 John 1 - what we have heard, seen, we make known – meaning that there are certainties and tasks while there are uncertainties.
- Loss of God's basic character and desires (frozen because all depends on us OR afraid will do "wrong")
- Far from where we started when we came to Christ, meaning we're forgetting impossibility of us even receiving anything good from God (i.e. Repentant prodigal son)
- Perhaps not knowing what work IS when God brings great change.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“All, then, who indulge themselves in their own counsels, deserve to be forsaken by God, and to be left by him to be driven up and down, and here and there, by Satan; for the only unfailing security for the faithful is to acquiesce in God’s word.”

John Calvin

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A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God’s providence.

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 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very distinctly.”
Deuteronomy 27:8

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 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.
 - B. Your obedience includes waiting with expectancy and continued obedience.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“One of the wonders of Habakkuk’s message is the engagement of God with his people. He answered Habakkuk. God dealt with the prophet’s complaints and answered his concerns but in an unexpected way. He began with an imperative, not an indicative, a command to the prophet, not a word for the prophet. Like Job, Habakkuk seemed content that the God of the heavens is concerned with his people and answers from heaven. God’s second response is more than an indication of concern; it is the answer for the ages. God is faithful and calls for faithfulness on the part of his people. Still, the answer does not yet address the prophetic questions, just as God’s answers never addressed Job’s issues.”

Waylon Bailey

Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 5

Habakkuk 1:2-4

A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God's providence.

Lessons About Faith

1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.
2. You are His, not yours. See ALL circumstances as coming from under His hand.
3. Those who turn to God in suffering/injustice and continue to trust/obey Him will be rewarded.

A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God's providence.