

The Work of Faith Pt. 5

Habakkuk 2:1, CBC April 24, 2024

First issue—why injustice, wickedness unpunished among your people—when will you act **I. Pay attention and you will see my work II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways** Chaldeans, not where you are looking, be astonished, but **III. Trust My Word to Bring Justice to All**, seems time elapsed and Chaldeans have begun their invasion vv. 12-17 and Habakkuk comes once again before God w happenings that seemed incompatible w what he knew about God **I. The Work of Faith Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. vv. 12-17 12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, covenant God, Yahweh, Jehovah; my God, Elohim—the Powerful Creator, stating facts Jews would affirm as core of identity because of real acts of God on behalf of His people; therefore, I can call to you because We will not die. Even if your promised punishment comes; therefore fits that, You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. Rock** common OT description of God, giving stability, place of refuge; continues w assumptions about God's character, **my Holy One Problem 1:** in order to use them, must look at them: **13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously?** you seem to be exalting, enabling those who stomp on Your character and name, taking credit themselves instead of giving it to you; **they rejoice and are glad. 16 Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net and burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch is large, And their food is plentiful.** they treat people as less than human, like animals, like creatures of land or sea that squashed; Busy about their own greatness and agenda; **17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing? Problem 2:** what will happen to Your people if they are not disciplined, but swallowed up by ones you say are YOUR tool? **who is source** v. 14? God Himself; **Where Habakkuk sits, it looks bleak;** "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 Bailey verse 1 gives us answer—more WORK of faith **II. The Work of Faith Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1** **What does Hab. 2:1 include in the work of faith and what is required to do this work?** **I I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved.** We are given window into how God reveals His counsel to His prophets **Amos 3:7; I will stand/station** even prophet couldn't force God to speak, he must go to work of watching, must be alert, keen eye; pulled away from rest of society to "concentrate specifically on God and what God would say when God decided to speak." Bailey, p. 320; **Why must prophet wait for God's word and prepare for how to respond to it?** Because whole job was to relay God's message to His people, to guard them from departing from God's Words; supposed to have keen eye, ear to the voice of heaven & then deliver it—**Is. 62:6-7** Ezekiel 3:17-21, blood required if didn't warn; 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 by shaped by what God himself would say. It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers." Amerding EBC, P. 509; Achtemeier said, "Prophets have no independent wisdom of their own—they are dependent on the word of God (cf. Jer. 42:5-7)—as we too are dependent for a true understanding of what God is doing and must ever search the word now given us in the Scriptures." Bailey, P. 320 **this would require? I. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured; Ps. 119:71** (You are Lord NOT when atrocities gone, but IN them AND working; therefore learn Word of God IN/UNDER pressure, not all time, but intentionally when HAVE no time—10 minutes, half hour?) Collect what know about God and why sure true; what has God said? To whom? What is your relationship with the promise? **Is. 57:13** (THIS is what is behind hanging verses on the wall—do it on wall of mind/heart—wrestle, **what DO I want; HAVE to have—what DOES it mean to take refuge in Him—what promises has He made to me that would be sufficient;** steady **habits of grace--sitting under Word; reverent prayer**—b/c dependent on Spirit of God for illumination; **I Cor. 2:14-16** (yet comes from posture of Col. 3:1-4, **I Pet. 1:7-9, 13 hope where?** With Christ/THERE—**where treasure, heart also Matt. 6:21; where do you get your wisdom, righteousness, direction, etc.?** from God Jn. 15, I Cor. 1; Matt. 4 live by word of God; Patience, Perseverance in Waiting Jm. 5 style—**not looking elsewhere until get answer then come back** comes from role (humility) staying in our place—created under Creator; servant under Master, **child under parent; What do you wish your children would do when don't understand, things unlivable, unfair? Do you have the heart you wish was in your children?** when patience tested (testing of your faith Rom. 5), God exposing your desire for control—different personalities do it differently—instead of waiting on God—scour internet to find answers, go to friends, shut down and go into self; ie. **Phil. 4:6 answer to anxiety?** Prayer and supplication TO GOD—willing to do this? **what would make children run toward your storehouse of wisdom? NOT recognizing your infinite experience** (you don't—you do have more than they, but you are still learning) **Recognizing their limited experience; not merely recognizing your role** (perfect father, mother, boss, etc.) **but by recognizing their role**—under, for reason—to learn, to show heart, to build up; **they should recognize not your perfect character, but trust in the character of the One who set this all up;** circumstances not focus, God is (He is holy, good, trustworthy) **God doesn't merely have best vantage point of your situation; He has the best vantage point of His situation and how you fit into it** II Cor. 4 momentary, light affliction producing . . . ; Lord's prayer—Thy kingdom come, will be done; Rom. 8:28—**why does it sound hollow?** B/c rip it from context where saying His plan of salvation/deliverance from start to finish that will be accomplished; while God proved that cared while on earth (healed blind, raised dead), **what was purpose** of miracles according to John? Jn. 20:31—there is something more important than this—**THAT BY BELIEVING**, you might have life through His Name; **must trust that what you see/think you need NOT always accurate, in fact, may take you away from God; Lk. 6:20-28;** other habit of grace neglected—you do not learn alone; process alone; fly with the saints; **2. Widen your circle—to others under God;** your experience and life of faith includes identity with those before you as people of God VS. those NOT people of God; line of Cain OR line of Seth—men began to call upon God; line of Eber that goes through Joktan OR Peleg; you are part of mankind; cloud of witnesses that have gone before, Heb. 12; **If God is eternal, than looking back to promises and acts shown to those before helps give a trajectory for future faithfulness in following Christ by turning from sin of unbelief—reason for striving;** therefore, join the others who call in pain and faith; **Ps. 130—Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!** psalm of ascent by pilgrims traveling to religious feasts at Jerusalem; Ps. 6, 38, 10, etc. **Figuring out and crying to God not merely alone, but in community is faith lived as God intended—it's on display**—matt. 5:16, **LIVING STONES** I Pet. 2, Eph. 4:15-16 speaking truth in love to grow in all aspects to Him

who is the Head means that life and faith lived openly w others in discussion until gain unity of the faith; attitudes of compassion, forgiveness, telling how to be angry, etc. only valuable if live this tightly with them; roots of faith & people who are pillars of faith come from real personal experience of often very mundane, earthly, ordinary actions— Deut. 6 repeating His words/commands/character, also stones from Jordan, working through soul issues that surface through fears and conflicts; **Do you have the heart you wish your children had?** will learn patience/perseverance when roles fixed; Robertson, p. 165 “The prophet is right in the position he takes w 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” Pr. 3:5-6 **say I already believe all that, BUT . . . I can’t find light—**

Lesson 2: Neither you nor they are in control over circumstances. God is. Trust God to undergird His own 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 do work of waiting for His answers?

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

Psalms 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted. That I may learn Your statutes.

Isaiah 57:13 “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 62:6–7 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.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

Luke 6:20–28 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.

1 Corinthians 2:14–16 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 Peter 1:7–9, 13 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.