

# The Work of Faith Pt. 9

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, Wednesday, May 29, 2024

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“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 1:12-2:5

Habakkuk “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*

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- III. Includes Responding to His Word with Willing Obedience 2:2-3
  - 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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  - 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 1:12-2:5

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. **And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,**” says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, **HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.** 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:37–38

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  - A. The Proud One

## What bothers us about people we think are proud?

- They are neglecting the rest (all they aren't displaying/talking about)
- If they have something to be proud of, their pride overshadows their gift/ability
- Perhaps highlights pride in our life seen by jealousy or inferiority
- We/others have done similar without drawing attention to it
- Self-centered shows by lifting up areas to neglect of work in others
- Something "showy" often fool to get what they want
- Struggle with identity & worth when their pride lifts them above us
- So focused on self that not focused on others (suspicious when they do seem to noticed others)
- Walls in relationship because different agendas (definitely at least one not leading toward God)
- Psalm 12:15 by "knowing all" shows ignorance

## Though we admit we need more humility, why is it easy to recoil at being called proud?

- Because we are proud & don't want to be humbled; darkness doesn't want exposure John 3, Eph 5
- Because I already know & I'm fighting it and you obviously are not acknowledging my great fight to be humbled
- I have right to be proud this is what I'm good at
- Much of identity tied with our abilities so nothing left if that attacked
- Desire for some reward for effort & for beauty/accomplishment
- Because only certain ones can call us proud
- To re-orient from proud to humble feels like dying – pride do not want to be governed, now under scrutiny
- Because we think our freedom is being questioned or curtailed
- Because feels like it negates work of humility that preceded
- Watch lack of care for those around you

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## If we would heed the message and continue with Habakkuk in the work of faith in God, **what subtle roots of “the proud one” must we identify, confess, and eradicate?**

- Watch lack of care for those around you
- Trust that God is more than enough – how would we expose whether we believe, God is more than enough? root out “must have” “if only”, independence self-sufficiency, protecting ourselves
- Don't be wrongly introspective but think about your thinking (what are assumptions behind your thought process, success, confidence, discouragement, failure)
- Easy when tired to lose dependence on God
- Watch sense of disgust arising from distancing ourselves from people who \_\_\_\_\_
- When you are greater than those around you, easy to think just superior or that gods are on our side, then both sides can feel unstoppable – roots are found in all that was out of your control to bring about these “unstoppable circumstances”
- There is One who is greater/over who orchestrates
- Watch how we define life & death – sometimes life comes through what feels like death – don't waste “hard times” as opportunity for refined faith

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

**For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2–5

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And He also told this parable **to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:** 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, **I thank You that I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 **‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’** 13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, **‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’** 14 **“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other;** for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9–14

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

The Work of Faith Pt. 9 Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

**Can you pick out a couple of right/wrong assumptions from Luke 18:9-14—roots that reveal the gaze of the heart**

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“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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**“Those who see only the short term always miss the significance of the work of God.”**

**Waylon Bailey**

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**“Those who see only the short term always miss the significance of the work of God.”** Waylon Bailey

**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. The Proud One
  - B. The Righteous One

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“So central to the whole of Jewish thought was Habakkuk 2:4b that the Talmud records this famous remark made by Rabbi Simlai: ‘Moses gave Israel 613 commandments, David reduced them to 11 (Ps. 15), Micah to 3 (Mic. 6:8), Isaiah to 2 (Is. 56:1), but Habakkuk to 1—‘the righteous shall live by his faith.’”

Walter Kaiser

**Where have we seen evidence of faith and its roots in Habakkuk to this point?**

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  - A. The Proud One
  - B. The Righteous One
    1. Lives by faith