GIVING THANKS AMIDST TROUBLE

Sunday, November 22, 2026 -- THANKSGIVING SUNDAY – GYM -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

HABAKKUK 3:17–19 English Standard Version (ESV)

> **17** *Though the fig tree should not blossom,*
> *nor fruit be on the vines,*
> *the produce of the olive fail*
> *and the fields yield no food,*
> *the flock be cut off from the fold*
> *and there be no herd in the stalls,*
> **18** *yet I will rejoice in the Lord;*
> *I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*
> **19** *God, the Lord, is my strength;*
> *He makes my feet like the deer's;*
> *He makes me tread on my high places."*

CONTEXT:

Who was HABAKKUK?

- An OT prophet of God who preached in _____ (the Southern Kingdom)
- Late 7th century BC (722-605 BC)
- During the Assyrian invasion and exile for _____ (the Northern Kingdom)
- Just before the Babylonian invasions and exile of Judah.
- A contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah; perhaps Daniel and Ezekiel

HABAKKUK'S spiritual setting:

- He preached to a nation (Judah) that was _____.
- They had _____ prophets that said God would not punish His chosen people.
- At first Habakkuk (like Job) questions God's _____.
- But by the end he is a changed person and learns to _____ and trust in God.
- He comes to understand that God works all things out for _____.
- He comes to trust in God's sovereignty and _____.
- Habakkuk comes to _____ and _____ God amidst His judgments.

Chapter 1 -- Habakkuk is _____ by what God is allowing. 1:2-4

- He sees worldliness, injustice and _____ among his people.
- Then he sees God is raising up the Babylonians to _____ Judah.
- He is _____! *Why let MORE wicked people judge God's people?!*

Chapter 2 -- God teaches Habakkuk to _____.

- He _____ for God's answer. (2:1)
- God assures Habakkuk that He will fulfill His purposes and the wicked will be punished.
- God's answer includes one of the most impt statements in the entire Bible:
  Habakkuk 2:4 -- "*The righteous shall live* _____."

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Chapter 3 -- Habakkuk responds in _____!

- Notice that chapter 3 is poetry or a psalm/song.
- He _____ God's mighty works, deliverance and judgment in the past.
- He trembles at the coming _____. (3:16)
- His circumstances haven't changed, but his understanding of God has _____.
- Now Habakkuk makes one of the most remarkable statements of **faith** (vs 17-18).

HELP FOR US FROM GOD'S WORK THROUGH HABAKKUK:

I. FAITH FACES THE _____ OF _____. vs 17

Notice the progression… no figs/grapes, olives, grain, sheep/cattle.
Total devastation, hunger, starvation, life is lost.

Key Point: Biblical faith does not deny the reality of _____.
Biblical faith recognizes the _____ of the Fall.
(sin, sorrow, sickness, suffering, injustice, calamity, death)

II. FAITH CHOOSES TO _____ IN THE LORD. vs 18

Notice the ***Yet*** ! → *despite it all*
This is _____ over _____. This is _____ over _____.
This is choosing _____ over _____.

"***You have a _____ to _____***."

HEBREWS 12:1-2

1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,* 2 ***looking to Jesus****, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who* ***for the joy that was set before him endured the cross****, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

GOD, Himself, becomes the _____ – not our circumstances.

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What was Christ's motivation to go to the Cross?

That He might _____ to God – for the glory of God.

1 PETER 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Mature faith learns to praise God in the midst of the trouble as an act of faith and an offering of praise and thanksgiving.

Powerful Examples from the New Testament:

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18 — *Rejoice always; give thanks in all circumstances.*
- ACTS 16:22–25 — Paul and Silas singing hymns while imprisoned.
- JAMES 1:2–4 — *Consider it all joy when experiencing trials of every kind…*

III. FAITH FINDS ITS _____ IN GOD. vs 19

Again, GOD is the _____. Not better circumstances, ease or 'blessings'.
Sometimes God _____ us *from* difficult circumstances.
At other times, He _____ us *through* difficult circumstances.

See the imagery of deer/hind!
A sure-footed animal on _____ terrain.

So the LORD is our _____ and _____ in times of trouble.

We _____ and _____ to God in every step because Christ has made the way for us to life!