



“Why, and How Long?”

Habakkuk 1:1-11

January 12, 2020

Questions for Application and Fellowship

MY STORY

1. Habakkuk is a book that addresses life at “wits’ end.” Habakkuk was distraught and frustrated, and he took his disillusionment to the Lord. Have you ever visited wits’ end? Are you there now? What are some of the most difficult seasons of your life in Christ?

QUICK REVIEW

As the prophet Habakkuk stood in Jerusalem and pondered the state of his nation, Judah, he must have been dumbfounded. So much evil thrived, completely in the open. What bothered him just as much is God remained strangely silent. Habakkuk was at wits’ end. Where was God? How long would He allow this mess to continue? Habakkuk cried out to God with his struggle. God answered with truth that speaks into the believers’ struggle with evil in every age.

Read Habakkuk 1:1-11; 2:4

Living by faith at wits’ end:

1. Faith brings _____ to God.
2. Faith endures _____ with God.
3. Faith places _____ in God.

Was any point in this weekend’s message particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Faith brings its frustrations to God. We bring open, raw cries for help in the midst of pain. This is the practice of lament. This is encouraged in Psalm 55:22 (read the entire Psalm for an example!) and I Peter 5:6-11. When have you called out to God like this? What are the benefits of crying out to God in this way?
2. Faith endures hardship with God. Our natural response is to retreat from pain, but suffering is the arena of our growth in Christ to become like Christ. Read Romans 5:1-4. What are the benefits that come from endurance through trials? How have you experienced this in your life?
3. Faith places trust in God. Often this is needed during times when God is allowing painful circumstances to persist. Read II Corinthians 12:7-10. What did God reveal to Paul in the midst of his thorny experience? What perspective does this provide for you?
4. For many, it was unthinkable that God would send Babylon to conquer Judah. False prophets railed against this message declared by Habakkuk, Jeremiah and others. What are some ways that you've seen Christians go on a "public relations campaign" for God, trying to get him "off the hook" for the things he declares responsibility for? Where might you be tempted to try and "adjust God's word" to make it easier to swallow for you or others?