

Habakkuk: Asking God the Right Questions

Where is God when life doesn't make sense? Why do the wicked/ungodly seem to get all the breaks? Jesus asked many questions. Effective leaders ask strategic questions, too. Are we carrying out God's purpose? Do we have the right people on the team and serving in the right places? Are we developing future leaders (calling out the called)? Are we being good stewards of God's resources?

The prophecy of Habakkuk is about his conversations with the Lord. He was honest with God. David, in the Psalms, was honest with the Lord, too. God's prophet knew how to ask questions. If you're a leader, sharpen your skills at asking questions. If you're going to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations, learn how to ask questions. Habakkuk knew how to pray. Do you know how to talk with God? Have you asked Him to teach you how to pray (Luke 11:1)?

1. Personal _____
2. Biblical _____
3. Dependent _____
4. Teachable _____
5. Special _____
6. Consistent _____
7. Intentional _____

Why does God allow His people to suffer and experience storms? God never wastes a hurt (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). Habakkuk knew that God's people were suffering. Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 on two occasions (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11) What should you and I do when the storms of life are raging?

1. Trust _____
2. Remain _____
3. Seek _____
4. Overcome _____
5. Welcome _____
6. Serve _____
7. Display _____

Here are six theological, practical applications from God's prophet, Habakkuk:

1. Ask God honest, hard _____.

Habakkuk 1:13 – *You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?*

Habakkuk 2:1 – *I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.*

2. Live the spiritual life by _____.

Habakkuk 2:4 – *Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.*

Habakkuk 2:16 – *You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory!*

3. Live assured of God's _____.

Habakkuk 2:14 – *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

4. Guard your heart over _____.

Habakkuk 2:18-20 – *“What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”*

5. Respond to God with _____.

Habakkuk 3:2, 16 – *O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.*

6. Trust God with complete _____.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 – *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, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.*

As we close the Book of Habakkuk, what questions do you need to ask God? What questions am I asking God?

- God, are we/I doing anything to grieve or quench your Holy Spirit?
- God, what is your preferred will for the facility needs of our church?
- God, how do I make sure that Jesus becomes greater, and I become less?

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1. Personal **relationship**
2. Biblical **knowledge**
3. Dependent **spirit**
4. Teachable **heart**
5. Special **place**
6. Consistent **time**
7. Intentional **plan**

Why does God allow His people to suffer and experience storms? God never wastes a hurt (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). Habakkuk knew that God's people were suffering. Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 on two occasions (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11) What should you and I do when the storms of life are raging?

1. Trust **God**
2. Remain **patient**
3. Seek **help**
4. Overcome **temptation**
5. Welcome **grace**
6. Serve **others**
7. Display **faith**

Here are six theological, practical applications from God's prophet, Habakkuk:

1. Ask God honest, hard **questions**.

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Habakkuk 2:1 – *I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.*

2. Live the spiritual life by **faith**.

Habakkuk 2:4 – *Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.*

Habakkuk 2:16 – *You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory!*

3. Live assured of God's **victory**.

Habakkuk 2:14 – *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

4. Guard your heart over **worship**.

Habakkuk 2:18-20 – *“What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”*

5. Respond to God with **humility**.

Habakkuk 3:2, 16 – *O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.*

6. Trust God with complete **surrender**.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 – *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, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.*

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