

“THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH”

“The just shall live by faith” is a phrase that can be seen in the Bible four times: once in the Old Testament, in Habakkuk 2:4, and three times in the New Testament; in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and in Hebrews 10:38. Life of faith may seem relatively easy to accomplish in the context of worship and religious activity. In the beauty and wonder of religious ceremony, God seems unusually close and it’s not difficult to see and sense His presence and be reminded of His goodness and blessing. However, when the perils roar our way, we often question just as we see in the life of Habakkuk.

In his book, prophet Habakkuk carefully constructs his prophecy into 8 specific divisions:

1. At first he complains to God (chapter 1:2-4)
2. God’s first response to Habakkuk (Chapter 1:5-11)
3. Habakkuk’s second complaint to God (Chapter 1:12-17)
4. Habakkuk waits for God to answer (Chapter 2:1)
5. God’s second response to Habakkuk (Chapter 2:2-5)
6. God’s woes against Babylon - (Chapter 2:6-20)
7. Habakkuk’s prayer (Chapter 3:1-15)
8. Prophet’s decision to rejoice in the Lord (Chapter 3:16-19)

Habakkuk’s prophecy has three important messages for us:

First: Difficult and unfair circumstances can cause our faith to be stretched and when it happens, talk to god and position ourselves for a response from God.

- *Like David, in agony we should cry: “YET You are my God....”*

Second: God desires us to trust him. God works in ways we cannot imagine, so let’s tell God, we trust His power, authority and love for us. Be certain - God answers in His own time and according to His own plan.

- *Like Job, let our heart whisper: “though He slay me - yet I will trust Him”*

Third: God is greater than our circumstances, receive His presence and be ready to share and rejoice. The God who worked in Habakkuk’s situation, the God of the past will certainly work in our life.

- *Like Mary, let’s stand determinedly and say: “Yes, Lord I have believed”*

The above verse was given to us not only to teach how to live in eternity, but also to teach us how to live NOW - in times of difficulty and pain and trouble. “The righteous will live by his faith.” This should be our attitude in troubled times: despite the hurt we feel, despite the pain we endure, despite the opposition we face, despite the pressure to compromise, despite all the evidence to the contrary, let us cry: YET I WILL BELIEVE! “The righteous will live by faith.”