

Faith That Stands When Everything Falls

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-5 Fellowship. Single Moms. GriefShare. DC. No Prayer Sun.
- C. Prayer: JM dinner & Sun.

II. Slide6,7 Intro: *Faith That Stands When Everything Falls*

- A. Illustration: The Hospital Waiting Room.

1. When someone you love is in surgery, **You don't stand in the waiting room arguing with the doctor's credentials. You don't demand a medical lecture. You **sit**. You **wait**. You **trust**.**
2. Habakkuk moves from **questions** in ch.'s 1-2; **to quiet reverence** in ch.3.
 - a) He still feels fear, but now he's resting in the hands of Someone he trusts. **Faith** doesn't start with **answers**, it starts with **surrender**.

- B. Habakkuk 3 is not a *complaint* and not an *argument*. *It's a song!*

1. After **wrestling** with God in chapters 1-2; Habakkuk now **rests** in God.
2. We started in **the valley of despair** in ch.1. **We moved to the watchtower** in ch.2. **And** here we end up on **the mountain top** in ch.3.

- C. This chapter shows us **what faith looks like after God answers**, **but** not the way we hoped.

- D. Big Idea: **Real faith** isn't proven when life is **good** - **but** when God is trusted *without visible answers*.

III. Slide8a 1 FAITH BEGINS WITH REVERENT PRAYER (1-2)

- A. Habakkuk moves from *arguing with God* to *adoring God*.

1. His prayer is *honest, emotional, and humble*.
2. He asks God to *revive His work*, **but also** for mercy.

B. **Slide8b** Good reminder: Before faith speaks, it **bows**.

C. **Faith** doesn't *demand explanations*; it **seeks God's presence**.

IV. **Slide9a 2 FAITH REMEMBERS GOD'S POWER (3-7)**

A. **Habakkuk** recalls God's past works: *Sinai imagery, trembling creation*.

1. With this **Sinai imagery**, nature responds: *Mountains crumble. Nations tremble. Creation recognizes its Creator*.

B. When the **future** is unclear, he **looks back** to what **God has already done**.

1. God may feel distant, but He is *never diminished*. Or we can say it this way, **God hasn't gone silent**, and **He's never gone weak**.

C. What God has done **before**, becomes fuel for **faith today**.

1. **Memory stabilizes** faith when *circumstances shake* it.

D. **Slide9b** When life feels **unstable**, Habakkuk remembers **the unshakable God**.

V. **Slide10a 3 FAITH TRUSTS GOD'S PURPOSES (8-15)**

A. God is portrayed here as a **Divine Warrior** - not angry at creation, but fighting for **His people**. [God rides through history. He **crushes** injustice. He **brings salvation**]

1. His power is directed toward salvation (deliverance), not **chaos**.

2. God is *actively working*, even when it looks like judgment or delay.

a) God's power is never random; it's always *redemptive*.

B. **Faith** trusts **God's heart** when it *can't* trace **His hand**.

1. Habakkuk realizes God is still *moving history* toward **redemption**, even when the route includes **Babylon**. God isn't lost! He's **chosen** a particular **path** for a greater purpose.

a) **Slide10b** **Faith** trusts the destination even when **the route** doesn't make sense.

VI. **Slide11 4 FAITH CHOOSES JOY WITHOUT CONDITIONS (16-19)**

A. **Habakkuk** admits *fear, weakness, and trembling*. (16)

1. Here Habakkuk *bases his soul* to us, w/his **honest fears**: He trembles. His body reacts. He waits quietly.
 - a) Faith **doesn't** mean *calm feelings*, it means **steady trust**.
 - b) Faith doesn't *ignore* fear; it **re-centers** on **who God is!**

- B. Here is the famous Though / Yet statement. (17-19)
- C. Everything is stripped away, *figs, vines, flocks* (crops. livestock. visible blessing).
1. Yet he declares, *I will rejoice in the Lord*. [but joy remains, because God remains]
 - a) Joy *rooted in God* survives the loss of everything else.
- D. Here is one of the greatest confessions of faith.
1. Though Babylon comes to destroy; Though You send away your people; Though the bottom drops out of everything... *yet I will trust in you!!!*
2. Though an **Ice-storm** hit our East Coast. Though a different **ICE-storm** hit Minneapolis. Though the **Rams** didn't make it to the Super Bowl ...
3. Though your child is failing in school. Though you just got laid off. Though your rent just went up. Though your stocks just crashed. Though your children just moved across the world ... *Yet I will rejoice the Lord!*
4. Had he looked ahead he would only see the invading Babylonian army; Had he looked within he would only see **fear** and trembling; Had he looked around he would only see **everything falling apart**; But by looking up by faith **he saw God**... and all his fears **vanished**.
- E. Slide12a **Faith** doesn't wait for *better circumstances*, it **Worships** in the worst ones.
 1. This is faith when circumstances don't cooperate.
- F. He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on high places.
 1. Slide12b God may not change the **terrain**, but He gives us **feet like a deer** (i.e. He changes how we walk on it). [God doesn't *remove the hills*, He gives **sure-footed faith** to trek them]
 2. Like the **eagle** and like the **deer**, God made us for the **heights!**

- a) They both will go down into the valley **but** that's not where they live. (us too!)
- G. The righteous don't live by *explanations* (think hospital waiting rm) - they **live by faith**.
- H. **Slide12c** Faith **isn't believing God will do what you want**, it's trusting God when He doesn't.
- I. God permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves.
 - 1. Habakkuk teaches us that faith **isn't the absence of loss**, it's **the presence of God**.
 - 2. When everything else is gone, **God remains**. **And He** is enough!
- J. Begone unbelief, my Saviour is **near**, And for my relief will surely **appear**;
 By prayer let me wrestle and He will **perform**;
 With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the **storm**.
 Though dark be my way, since He is my **guide**
 "Tis mine to obey, 'tis His to **provide**;
 Though cisterns be broken and creatures all **fail**, **The Word** He hath spoken shall
 surely **prevail**. John Newton

- K. Keywords: Faith, Trust, Joy.