

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 *bare* 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.