

Love & War #7
Seeing God for Who He Is

Word

Scripture Reference

Habakkuk 3:16-19

Discussion Questions

1. What benefit do you get from exercising regularly?
2. When you exercise your faith in Jesus Christ, you enjoy the good life. However, if you are not exercising your faith, then you live your life in guilt and fear, without the satisfaction of enjoying the life God has prepared for you. Faith needs to be exercised—to be lived out—in order to strengthen it. Habakkuk had two questions that greatly affected his exercise of faith: He asked God why He allows sinful acts to go unpunished in this world, and why God allows evil people to succeed. God answered that people do not know everything that He does. He is the sovereign God that people ought to trust. He knows what He is doing. Do you think life is fair? Do you understand everything that happens to you? Discuss why you should trust God in spite of the fact that you don't understand everything He does.
3. Read Habakkuk 3:16-19. Habakkuk finally came to accept God's answer to his questions. He was going to exercise his faith in God to allow him to enjoy life in the midst of problems. He followed three exercises that you as a follower of Jesus Christ should adapt in order to strengthen your faith:
 - a. **Maintain a healthy fear of the Lord in your life's outlook (v. 16).**
This fear is about a healthy respect for God. How did Habakkuk respond to the fact that God would punish His people by using the Babylonians because of their stubbornness? Discuss how this generation has shown disrespect and lack of fear for God. Describe God for who He is and why you need to have the same healthy fear and respect for Him as Habakkuk did.
 - b. **Cultivate an attitude of joy amidst life's many problems (v.**

17-18). The real world is unfair, harsh and unforgiving, that's why learning to cultivate joy amidst many problems is important. What reason did Habakkuk give in verse 18 that in spite of every problem, he would still rejoice in the Lord? Joy is a matter of choice. Have you ever felt God's presence and experienced joy while going through a situation that you would not have handled well without Him? Share with the group.

Colossians 3:2 says that you should set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. What happens when you set your mind on earthly things? Why can't the world give you real joy? On the other hand, how does setting your mind on Jesus fill your life with joy?

- c. **Recognize God's enabling strength in times of your weakness (v. 19).** Having joy does not mean that you are not going to go through problems or a time of sadness and desperation. True joy comes with knowing that in those times of weakness, there is One who is the source of strength. What did Habakkuk say he could do because the sovereign Lord is his strength? Read John 15:5. How is it in your life? Share how you rely on God's strength and grace to accomplish something good.

Walk

The greatest adventure in life is when you know that you have Someone powerful to go through it with. You don't stand before the world to be judged by them, but you stand before the heavenly throne to be judged by Jesus. And so start exercising your faith by maintaining a healthy fear of the Lord in your life's outlook; cultivating an attitude of joy amidst life's problems, and recognizing God's enabling strength in times of your weakness. How do you demonstrate fear of God in your daily actions? Is true joy evident in your life? Who is the source of your joy? When do you need God most in your life? How do you call on the Lord during those times?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you that I can always put my trust in You even in times when I don't understand everything You do. You are trustworthy because of the very nature of who You are. Forgive me when there are times that I would doubt your power and strength to help me. And when I forget that without you, I can do nothing. Instill in me healthy fear and respect for You. Help me to choose joy regardless of my situation. Thank you that You are able to strengthen me in my weakness. What else can I ask for, but to exercise my faith in You by completely relying on You at all times. In Jesus Name, Amen.