

Faith to Fear

Habakkuk 3:1-19

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“Faith is the opposite of anxiety, of fear, of doubt, and of being troubled. It is unlimited confidence, the assurance and conviction of unseen things” – Herman Bavinck. When we are faced with doubt and uncertainty, we must fight for faith. Habakkuk 3 shows us how to do so.

The book of Habakkuk is the prophet Habakkuk’s dialogue with God during a time when Israel was in political and moral chaos (600 B.C.). While Habakkuk’s prayer started off at a place of fear, he ended up at a place of faith. Habakkuk 3 helps us move from fear to faith.

3 things to do to move from fear to faith (Hab. 3)

1) Rehearse

Habakkuk reminded himself of God’s mercy upon the nation of Israel (v2) and rehearsed what God had done in the history of Israel (vv3-16). He drew upon the past to build faith for his present – the giving of the law (God’s will and desire for His people) at mount Sinai (v3), God’s merciful deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt through the 10 plagues (v5), the crossing of the Red Sea (v8), and Israel’s miraculous victory at the battle at Gibeon (v11).

Gal. 3:29 - For all who belong to God by faith, they are Abraham’s offspring. All the stories in the Old Testament were never just meant for Israel. They were pointing forward to Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ and our faith in Him, we become heirs to the Old Testament promises.

When we have faith in Jesus Christ, all the stories of the Old Testament become our stories. We can rehearse the mighty acts of God in the lives of those in the Bible and find trust that God would do them again. Rehearse the mighty acts of God in history and cry out to Him in prayer to make those acts renewed in our day!

2) Remember

Habakkuk moved beyond the hand of God to the heart of God. He reminded himself of who God is (v6, v9, v11); not just the actions of God, but His character and attributes. Beyond seeing the acts of God in history, there will be times where God is silent. God’s silence is not rejection but an opportunity for us not just to trace His hands, but to trust His heart to know who He is.

vv3-4 – Habakkuk reminded himself that the God he serves is powerful and majestic. He stood in awe and worshipped His majesty and power. He remembered that God is just. His wrath and indignation are against the wicked and even as he moves out in judgement, He does so to save His people (v8). Habakkuk remembered that God is merciful (v2, v13). He goes out for the salvation of His people who are obstinate, sinful and ungrateful. As we rehearse the mighty acts of God, we also need to remind ourselves of who God is!

3) Resolve

v16 – Even after rehearsing the wondrous deeds of God and remembering who He is, Habakkuk trembled and felt fear in his heart. Yet, he resolved to wait upon the Lord. Habakkuk, despite knowing the tragic and severe loss that would come upon the nation of Judah, rejoiced in the Lord (v17). He knew that God would sustain him in difficult places (v19). This is the same God that will sustain us in difficult places.

The greatest and mightiest act of God in human history is Him sending Christ to save His people from their sins. Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf, delivered us from sin and defeated death. In Jesus’ death on the cross, God accomplished the great miracle in saving His people from their sins (Luke 23:44). This God is the very same God that holds us in His hands and enables us to move from fear to faith!