

Having determined our destiny ahead of time, he called us to himself and transferred his perfect righteousness to everyone he called. And those who possess his perfect righteousness he co-glorified with his Son!

Romans 8:30 (The Passion Translation)

So, what does all this mean? If God has determined to stand with us, tell me, who then could ever stand against us? <sup>32</sup> For God has proved his love by giving us his greatest treasure, the gift of his Son. And since God freely offered him up as the sacrifice for us all, he certainly won't withhold from us anything else he has to give.

Romans 8:31,32 (The Passion Translation)

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:33,34 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... Romans 8:35 (NLT)

Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

But no matter what comes, we will always taste victory through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37 (The Voice)

### **Christians should be happy:**

Because our bad things will turn out for good.

(Says Romans 8:28)

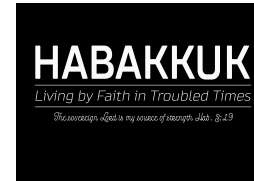
Because our good things can never be taken away from us.

(Says Romans 8:29-35)

Because the best things are yet to come.

(Says Romans 8:37)

Dan Wilvers- November 26th, 2017 Part 5



## **What Does It Mean to Rejoice in Suffering?**

***Habakkuk 3:1-19***

**Chapter 1-** When Habakkuk looks around him, it seems the good suffer and the wicked prosper. Israel is corrupt, and if that wasn't bad enough God tells Habakkuk He's sending in an even greater evil; the Babylonians, to deal with Israel.

**Chapter 2-** But when he asks God why the good suffer, God explains that in the long run, they don't. God is in control of all creation, and only He can see how current circumstances fit into His greater plan.

**Chapter 3-** With that knowledge, Habakkuk now responds to God in thanks for being in control and eventually vindicating all of His faithful followers.

This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: <sup>2</sup> I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. vs. 1,2

**Verses 3-15** Habakkuk recalls God's great deeds in Israel's history.

I trembled inside when I heard this; (*Habakkuk knew this day of trouble; the coming Babylonian invasion, was coming for His people*) my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us. <sup>17</sup> Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! <sup>19</sup> The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. vs. 16-19

**When do you say God is good? When things are going well for you, right? It's the natural way to see God working in our lives.**

*When your fig trees are blossoming. When the money is there. When health is there. When things are going the way you want.*

Everything in Habakkuk's life had gone wrong, yet he was overwhelmed with the goodness of God and as a result, he remained poised, despite impending suffering.

### **1. What is rejoicing in suffering?**

<sup>19</sup>The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. Habakkuk 3:19

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. <sup>2</sup>Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

Romans 5:1,2

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup>And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup>And this hope will not lead to disappointment. Romans 5:3-5a

He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. Habakkuk 3:19

### **2. When does rejoicing in suffering happen?**

<sup>16</sup>(Yet) I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. Habakkuk 3:16a

**Habakkuk was perplexed by his problems.  
He wasn't at all perplexed in his relation to God.**

I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us. Habakkuk 3:16b

<sup>17</sup>Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! Habakkuk 3:17,18

A lot of people feel like, *"If I'm crying uncontrollably and I'm filled with knee buckling grief, that somehow it's a lack of faith."*

### **That's not what you see in the Bible.**

Job arose, he tore his garments, he fell on the ground and cried out. Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God. Job 1:22

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job 13:15

On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead... He may do something desperate." 2 Samuel 12:18

"Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied... Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. 2 Samuel 12:19,20

**The joy of the Lord happens *inside* the sorrow,  
and it *enables* you to actually feel your grief without it sinking you.**

### **3. Here's why it's possible to rejoice in suffering.**

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good *and beautiful* when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan. Romans 8:28 (Voice)

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 NLT