



April 30th

Passage: Habakkuk 2:2-5

Happy Thursday! Today in Habakkuk we find the Lord respond to Habakkuk once again. From this short section we find some great application and helpful reminders as we live our lives following Christ! Before we camp out in this section, take a few minutes to pray.

READ & DIG. Read Habakkuk 2:2-5 & take note of anything that stands out!

Yesterday we left Habakkuk waiting for the Lord and today we find the Lord answering. Check out these two implications for us as we read what God calls Habakkuk to do:

WAIT (2-3): The first thing the Lord instructs Habakkuk to do is to write or record that which is going on so that *whoever reads it will run*. This could mean a few things – so that the sinful would run in fear or that those with the *vision* or message of God would take it out. Regardless, God ends the first part of his instruction to Habakkuk telling him to wait – *if it seems slow wait for it*. God is talking about the judgement of Habakkuk's enemies. Here we learn a good lesson; a lesson Habakkuk learned – **to wait!** We've said it already and we must say it again... if it seems like God isn't working, he is, we must be patient. We are not patient people! We want what we want, and we want it now. Just like Habakkuk we don't have control over the circumstances in our lives. We have to submit to God's timing. Being a follower of God requires patience. *Are you patient?*

HAVE FAITH (4): The next way God calls Habakkuk to respond is in faith! Read V4 again, *Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith*. There is a comparison here, isn't there? We would probably think that God is speaking to the Chaldeans whose *soul is puffed up...* but it's very possible he is speaking about Habakkuk... the prophet who thinks he and his people have been righteous and undeserving of judgement... ** a soul that is puffed up mean prideful*. God reminds Habakkuk that **the righteous are marked by lives of faith**. It doesn't seem that he has been exercising his faith in God well. He has been trusting more what he sees rather than putting his faith in God and God's plan. For us today though, our faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ, the one who has accomplished our righteousness once and for all. *What describes you more – a soul that is puffed up or living by faith?*

Apply & GO

So, let's be really practical today –

We need to be patient... in life we don't always get what we want right when we want it. We know that. God is not a genie in a bottle that we can give a rub anytime we want something. Rather, God listens to the cry of our hearts to him and he answers exactly as he sees fit. However, that answer may not come in the timing we hope it will... Today, work on your patience with God... but also everyone else (family, friends, strangers)

We need to have faith... Habakkuk's struggle is really within his heart, not with God. Habakkuk, we find is not putting his faith in God. Rather, he is putting his faith in what he sees around him (his situation/circumstances). The call for Habakkuk and us is the same – radical faith. We have to abandon all that we see and trust what is truth – God and his Word. This means even in the difficult times in our lives we have got to put our faith In the Lord rather than In what we see.

* * *Close in prayer, as the Lord to give you patience to wait for him and faith to trust him.