

Gratitude When the Wheels Come off [Habakkuk 3:16-19]

Big Idea: *Gratitude doesn't depend on good circumstances; it depends on a faithful God.*

Habakkuk was not writing from a place of comfort. He was looking at a future in which nearly everything he depended on could be taken away. And yet, in the middle of that uncertainty, he makes one of the most remarkable statements of faith in Scripture.

I. Faith Faces the Reality of Our Circumstances [Habakkuk 3:17]

Application Question: Where have the wheels come off in your life?

II. Faith Chooses Gratitude Because of Who God Is [Habakkuk 3:18]

3 Questions to ask when the wheels come off:

[1] What am I grieving or struggling with right now?

[2] What truth about God do I need to remember in the middle of it?

[3] What can I thank God for today, even while I wait for Him to work?

III. Faith Finds Strength to Keep Moving Forward [Habakkuk 3:19]

Application: We can endure because our hope is fixed on what is eternal.

Reading, Question, Challenge, and Prayer

Reading: Read Habakkuk 3:16-19, Psalm 46:1, Romans 5:1-5, and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Question: Where have the wheels come off in your life, and what truth about God's faithfulness can you remember in the middle of that struggle?

Challenge: This week, identify one difficult circumstance in your life. Bring it honestly before God, then intentionally thank Him for one truth about His character that remains unchanged. Don't wait for everything to get better before you begin to give thanks.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you to trust Him when life is difficult, teach you to find your joy in His faithfulness rather than in your circumstances.

[Habakkuk 3:16] I hear, [32] and my body trembles; [Jeremiah 4:19] my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; [Proverbs 12:4] my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. [Psalm 94:13, Isaiah 14:3-4]

[Habakkuk 3:17] Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, . . .

[Psalm 46:1-3] God is our refuge and strength, [14:6] a very present help [145:18, Deuteronomy 4:7] in trouble. [9:9] 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, [18:7] though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, [Ezekiel 27:26] 3 though its waters roar and foam, [Psalm 93:3-4, Jeremiah 5:22] though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

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[Habakkuk 3:18] Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

[Romans 5:1-5] ... since we have been justified by faith, [3:28] we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [15:13, Hebrews 12:28] 2 Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace [Ephesians 2:18, 3:12, Hebrews 10:19-20, 1 Peter 3:18] in which we stand, [I Corinthians 15:1] and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [5:11, 12, 12 Hebrews 3:6] 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, [Matthew 5:12] knowing that suffering produces endurance, [Luke 21:19, James 1:3] 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, [Psalm 119:116, Philippians 1:20] because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. [Acts 2:17-18, 2:33, Titus 3:6, Galatians 4:6]

[Habakkuk 3:19] God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; [2 Samuel 2:18] he makes me tread on [Amos 4:13, Micah 1:3] my high places. [Deuteronomy 32:13, 33:29]

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2 Corinthians 4:16–18 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, [Amos 20:24], our inner self [Romans 7:22] is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, [Romans 8:18, 1 Peter 1:6, 1 Peter 5:10, Psalm 30:5, Isaiah 54:7] 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. [2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 8:24, Hebrews 11:1, 13]



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Responding When the Wheels Come Off

1. Habakkuk moved from questioning God to trusting Him. What stood out to you about his journey of faith, and how might it encourage you in your own walk with God?
2. **Read Habakkuk 3:17.** In this verse, Habakkuk describes the loss of crops, fruit, and livestock. What are some circumstances in life that can make it difficult to be grateful?
3. **Read Psalm 62:8 and Hebrews 4:16.**
   Psalm 62:8 tells us we can acknowledge our struggles honestly because God invites us to pour out our hearts before Him, and we can do so with confidence because He is our refuge. Hebrews 4:16, which reminds us that through Jesus we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence and receive His mercy and help in our time of need.
   Why is it important to acknowledge our struggles honestly rather than pretend everything is fine? How can we bring our difficulties before God?
4. **Read Psalm 46:1–3.** What does it mean that God is our refuge, strength, and very present help in trouble? How does this truth shape the way we face uncertainty?
5. **Read Habakkuk 3:18.** What does this statement by Habakkuk teach us about the difference between gratitude based on our circumstances and gratitude based on God's character?
6. **Read Romans 5:1–5.** How can God use difficult circumstances to develop endurance, character, and hope in our lives? What does it mean to trust God while we wait for Him to work?
7. **Read Habakkuk 3:19.** How does knowing that God is our strength help us keep moving forward when our circumstances do not change? What might it look like to depend on His strength this week?

Take Home Challenge

This week, identify one difficult circumstance in your life. Bring it honestly before God, then intentionally thank Him for one truth about His character that remains unchanged.

Don't wait for everything to get better before you begin to give thanks.