

## Persevering Through Crisis

### Part 2

Habakkuk 2:1-4

If someone were to ask you what you would like your life to look like twenty or thirty years from now, what would you tell them? How specific could you be? Are you so convinced and sure of your vision that it controls your present thinking, planning, and the choices you make to realize what you desire? Your response may be like most, “Twenty to thirty years from now? It’s all I can do to make it through the next week without the clutter of thinking twenty years from now. Besides, we just learned we shouldn’t plan tomorrow because our life is but a vapor that appears for awhile and vanishes away. Besides, Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow because today has enough trouble of it’s own.”

One of the challenges we have is just that. Most often we either become so caught up in the present or overwhelmed by our circumstances that we find ourselves paralyzed in the present. Whether it be conflict, illness, fatigue, a down turn of the economy, being stood up on a date, cut from the travel squad, not included in the next social function, losing a friendship - - - or a friend, or being deceived by someone we trust. We can easily be overwhelmed by the trial of the moment. We each have our list, don’t we? It’s intrinsic in our nature to lose *perspective* in the midst of circumstances. The same can be said when we think all is perfect in our personal world . . . so much so we think we can stay there in the comfort of the present and never give a thought to the need of the future.

A more important question could be, “What if you were to look into God’s divine crystal ball in anticipation of the future that He, in His grace and love, has mapped out for you?” What if you could be so confident in His *vision* for you, a vision and purpose that would be so significant and astonishing “you would not believe if you were told”? What if God Himself personally spelled it out? And what if you had such confidence and faith in His character and what He had told you that it would directly influence your present thinking, planning, and choices regardless of the circumstances of the moment? What if your confidence in His plan for the future had so gripped your life that every present event had its significance only in its context of the future?

No, we do not have God’s divine crystal ball, that if it were approached just right and carefully positioned would reveal our tomorrows. We do have something more precious, and infinitely more powerful. We have in our hands His recorded revelation of each of our futures. In His revelation we have the direction and the steps we can take to exult and find a depth of joy in the midst of overwhelming circumstance, joy we never dreamed possible.

### Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Hebrews 10:35-38 “*Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has not pleasure in him.*”
  - (a) Sure, this is a long passage, but it is a powerful one. Write it out on a card, keep it with you for meditation, write out specific principles on the back side of the card—principles you can *by faith* commit to.
  - (b) What does this passage reinforce regarding standing, watching, acting (obedience), having an Eternal Perspective and how you pray.

2. How does the concept of an “Eternal Perspective” determine how you face your present circumstances? Read Luke 6:20-26 followed by vs.27-38. What parallels do you see? Ask God to shape your thinking from the present to the eternal.
3. What does it mean for you to take personal ownership of your faith and allow it to define the choices you make in persevering through tribulation? (See Hab. 1:5; Eph. 3:16-21; Jer. 29:11-14; Ps. 37:23-26)
4. How do you see Habakkuk 2:1-4 shaping the prophet’s prayer life? How does this influence create a contrast in how we normally approach prayer? What specifically stands out to you as most significant?

*“When people are satisfied with the lesser things of life (present), the good instead of the best (eternal), then their successes add up only as failures. These people are spiritually bankrupt and do not realize it.” - Dr. Warren Wiersbe*

## **What happens when our world begins to fall apart?**

Ch. 1 Does God know or even care about what is going on in my conflicted world?

- Habakkuk bombards God with “Whys?”, “How longs?” and “Is this fair?”
- Central: 1:5 God *does* know and is doing something beyond our imagination
- 1:12-13 God is eternal, righteous, and securely established

Ch. 2 What is my basis for confidence/security/stability as I face my conflicted world?

A. The Will 2:1-4 *A predetermined choice to trust*

6 choices that establish a foundation of confidence.

- The choice TO STAND on the grace and character of God
  - “I will stand” Hab. 1:5; 1:12-13 – a choice based only upon what is known about God
  - “guard post” A position of authority
  - “rampart” A place of safety
- The choice TO WATCH with a heart for God
  - “I will keep watch”
  - “. . . to see what He will speak” anticipation
  - an attitude of trust
  - . . . reproved
  - an expectation that God will respond

Habakkuk drew a sharp contrast between what he spoke and thought with all of his questions and conclusions and what God would speak.

Question: What will I do with what God speaks?

- The choice TO ACT on the Word of God
  - “Record the vision” (the revelation of God: Scripture) 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Display it and run with it  
2 Cor. 3:2-3 / 1 Pet. 2:11-12

- The choice TO WAIT in God's Eternal Perspective  
Today's culture - I want it all and I want it now  
7 key words:

"Yet"  
"Appointed time"  
"Goal"  
"Will not fail"  
"Tardies"  
"Wait"  
"Will come"

Not simply destruction of Jerusalem 70AD  
 The close of the Great Tribulation  
 The beginning of the Millennial Reign

- The choice TO PERSONALIZE my FAITH in God  
Draws a contrast between two kinds of people  
 Wrong soul vs Right soul  
 Proud vs Righteous  
 Temporal vs Eternal  
 Reactor vs Responsive  
 Keystone passage of Habakkuk  
 2:4 "the righteous will live by his faith"  
 His faith - personal ownership  
 - noun (relationship with God)  
 - verb (expression of the relationship)
- The choice TO PRAY in light of God's purpose and sovereignty
  - Habakkuk is a prayer
  - Interaction, conversation, dialogue with God
  - To pray in subjection to God's will in light of His purpose and His sovereignty

B. The Warning 2:5-20