

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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This week Executive Pastor Terry Feix continued our *Movementum* series, looking back in biblical history to the book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk was a prophet of great faith and brought questions to God about what he saw around him. Living in a time similar to ours, Habakkuk looked to God to bring about immediate changes to make the world right. But God's answer wasn't what Habakkuk wanted, and he questioned God again, revealing what could be called an "only if faith" – "I will believe and trust you God, only if you _____." But God answered him and reminded Habakkuk of his sovereignty, his greater perspective, and his great love for his people. After deep and lengthy reflection, Habakkuk changed his faithful position to one of "even if," a type of two-fisted faith, where he could say, "Even if _____ happens, you are still good; you are still God." Believing on one hand that God can bring justice, righteousness, and solve the world's and personal problems, but even if he doesn't, he is still good.

SCRIPTURE

HABAKKUK 1:2-8 NLT

² How long, O LORD, must I call for help?
But you do not listen!
"Violence is everywhere!" I cry,
but you do not come to save.

³ Must I forever see these evil deeds?
Why must I watch all this misery?
Wherever I look,
I see destruction and violence.
I am surrounded by people
who love to argue and fight.

⁴ The law has become paralyzed,
and there is no justice in the courts.
The wicked far outnumber the righteous,
so that justice has become perverted.

⁵ The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations;
look and be amazed![a]
For I am doing something in your own day,
something you wouldn't believe
even if someone told you about it.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians,
a cruel and violent people.
They will march across the world
and conquer other lands.

⁷ They are notorious for their cruelty
and do whatever they like.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than cheetahs
and fiercer than wolves at dusk.
Their charioteers charge from far away.
Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey.

HABAKKUK 2:3-4 NLT

³ This vision is for a future time.

It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.

If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently,
for it will surely take place.

It will not be delayed.

⁴ "Look at the proud!

They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked.

But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.

HABAKKUK 3:17-19 NLT

¹⁷ 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,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD!

I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength!

He makes me as surefooted as a deer,^[f]
able to tread upon the heights.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Terry's message?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:2-4. What was Habakkuk's complaint?
3. How are these complaints similar to what we face in our world and personal lives today?
4. Read Habakkuk 1:5-8 and 2:3-4. What was God's answer to Habakkuk?
5. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. How did Habakkuk's faith evolve to "even if _____"?
6. How have you been living a faith of "only if _____"? (If you do this God, then I will trust in you?)
7. What do you need to give over to God in an "even if _____" kind of faith? (Even if this happens, I will trust in you.)
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Admit to God that you have sometimes been caught up in an "only if" kind of faith, questioning his goodness and trustworthiness. Bring to him all that concerns you, and pray to trust him to bring about rejoicing, in the waiting, in the answering, in the "even if" times of your faith journey.