



Refuse to Quit!

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

It is hard to keep going when there is trouble all around you. It is tempting to quit, losing hope, joy, and faith.

That is how it was for Habakkuk, the prophet. He saw the immorality and godlessness all around him. He watched as Jerusalem was sacked and burned in 586 B.C. He grieved as Judah, was devastated and captured by the Babylonians. Habakkuk seethed with anger as he wondered why God would allow his own wicked nation be taken by an even more wicked nation. He thought about quitting.

After wrestling with God's justice and sovereignty, Habakkuk got clarity as he ended his God-inspired book. In the last three verses of the book of Habakkuk, this prophet teaches us **three choices** that we must make if we are to persevere when trouble comes.

I. Choose determination

(verse 17)

1. Rest in God's supply

Philippians 4:19

2. Rest in God's faithfulness

Lamentations 3:23-25

II. Choose joy

(verse 18)

1. Have joy in God's character

"I will rejoice in the LORD"

2. Have joy in God's deliverance

"...joyful in God my Savior."

III. Choose faith

(verses 19)

1. Have faith in God's sovereignty

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength"

2. Have faith in God's strength

"my strength...like...a deer "

3. Have faith in God's hope

"He enables me to go on the heights."

Your Response:

1. The scenario, painted by Habakkuk in verse 17, is desperate. Have you ever been in something similar? How did God get you through that? Are there any reminders you can give yourself for your next episode of trouble?
2. In verse 18, Habakkuk says “*I will*” as he chose to be joyful. Are you gloomy or joyful? What choices do you need to make in your attitude if you are going to honor God and improve your life?
3. Are you dealing with trouble? Read verse 19 again. What is God telling you to do with your troubles? How does God encourage you with this verse?

Resources:

Acres Of Diamonds by Russell Conwell

Four Minor Prophets by Frank Gaebelein

The Minor Prophets, vol. 2 by Thomas Edward McComiskey

The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah by O. Palmer Robertson

Starting and Closing: Perseverance, Faith, and One More Year by John Smoltz