

THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH

Habakkuk 2:1-4, 12-14

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you define the word *woe*? What are you inclined to do when you hear or read the word *woe*?
- Why is it hard to rely on faith when bad things continually happen or when it feels like God isn't answering prayer?

The book of Habakkuk gives us a framework to talk about God's response to injustice. It's human nature to desire a response or a fix NOW. We understand direct cause and effect. So if God's people are sinning, if injustice occurs, we might wonder why doesn't God step in to bring justice? Why doesn't God act more like...well, God? In chapter 2, Habakkuk lists the sins, corruptions, and injustices of his society - attitudes and sins that still lead to injustice and corruption today. But Habakkuk says something that the Apostle Paul found very significant. In fact, Habakkuk's verses about righteous, faith, and how we live are the building blocks for Paul's theology in Romans 1. Together both Habakkuk and Paul teach us how we as believers can begin to live in the world, but not of it.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee discusses the idea that God's deliverance may linger. In his commentary on Habakkuk, John Calvin offers this explanation: *We indeed make such haste in all our desires, that the Lord, when he delays one moment, seems to be too slow.* Ponder both of these statements. Are there areas in your life where you might be imposing your own haste on God and his timing?
- Consider the ways you build trust in human relationships and apply the same principles to your relationship with God. Make a list of ways you can build your trust in God. When your faith wavers, remind yourself of the reasons you trust God and revisit the list you made to continue building on that foundation of trust.
- How do your beliefs about the future of this earth and God's kingdom inform how you live now?
- What does it mean that Jesus Christ made you righteous through his death on the cross? How does that knowledge help you live by faith?
- Are your words and actions a witness to the gospel and God's glory?

Related Passages

- **Romans 1:16-17**
- **Isaiah 11**

- **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Conclusion

Do you need to seek forgiveness for imposing your haste on God's timing or for not putting your trust in him? Do you seek illumination from God's word about the future of this world or help living faithfully? Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the righteousness you have received through Christ and for the gift of the Holy Spirit who provides testimony to the glory of God. Continue with prayers of confession, illumination, or praise and commit to living by faith.

<https://groundwork.reframemedia.com/episodes/the-righteous-will-live-by-faith>

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