

God remains faithful
when I don't understand.
Habakkuk 1:12-2:4

3 preliminaries

1. Death/suffering is the enemy (Rev 21:4).
2. All things work for good for those who love God (Rom 8:28).
3. Sometimes we'll never know why (Job).

Big Idea: God remains faithful even when I don't understand; so, I choose to live faithfully in all situations.

¹²Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. ¹³You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he? ¹⁴You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler. ¹⁵He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.

¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich. ¹⁷Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever? ²I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. ²And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. ³For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. ⁴"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

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1. God's Character guarantees His faithfulness (vv. 12-14).

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Focus on God's Character more than your problem.

- i. From everlasting to everlasting (v. 12).
- ii. Holy One (v. 12).
- iii. Keeps his promises (v. 12).
- iv. Sovereign judge (v. 12).
- v. Our Rock (v. 12).
- vi. Establisher of kingdoms (v. 12).
- vii. Too pure to look at evil/wrong (v. 13).

In difficulty, remember, our Jesus:

- i. Understands our struggles (Heb 4:15).
- ii. Will wipe away every tear (Rev 21:4).
- iii. Guarantees our salvation (Eph 1:13-14).
- iv. Advocates for us (1Jn 2:1).
- v. Gives us Hope (1Ti 1:1).

2. Expect God's answer in God's time (vv. 2:1-3).

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“Sometimes the silences of God
can be explained by the people's
sins and their failure to repent,
but that is not always true.”

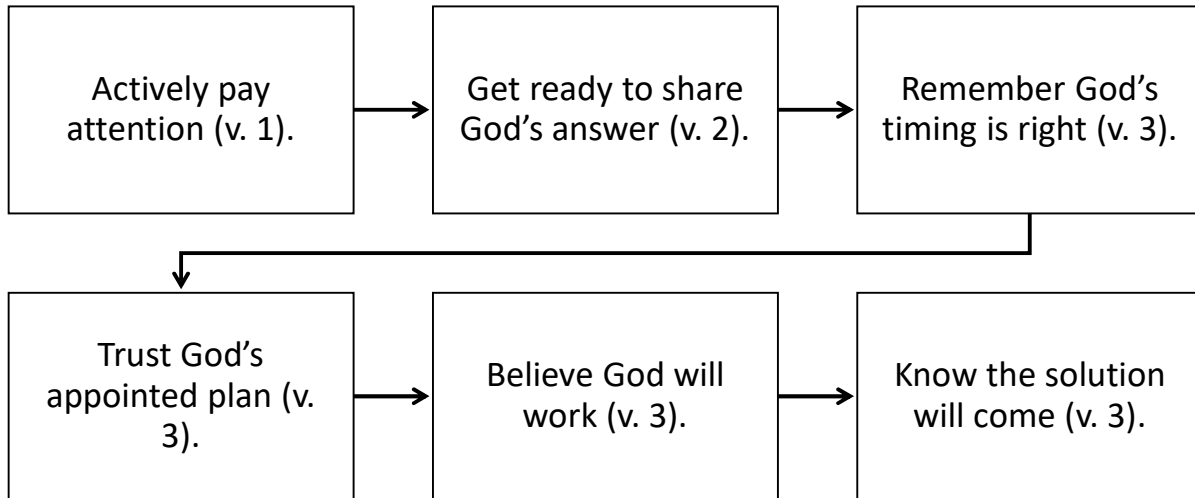
- RL Smith

4 Reasons God waits ... *when we think he should hurry!*

- i. For someone's salvation (2Pt 3:9).
- ii. To mature a believer (James 1:2-4; Php 4:19).
- iii. So that God gets the glory (Jn 12:27-28).
- iv. Because God's plan is better (Rom 8:28).

These are not all the reasons, just some of them.

When God seems slow to answer ... *wait* like Habakkuk.



It's not a formula. We don't know how long we need to wait.

3. Live by faith (v. 2:4).

⁴ “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

(*cf.* Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38)

Live by faith ... in real life.

- i. Live consistently when violence abounds, and justice is perverted (1:1-4).
- ii. Persevere in difficulty (1:5-11) even when we do not understand (12-17).
- iii. Let faith in God's answer conquer doubt of silence (2:1-3).
- iv. Seek to understand God's righteous judgment (2:4-20).
- v. Extol/Praise God's sovereign purpose (3:1-19).

“Hey, look at me ... Either God is sovereign over every single bit of this thing, or he ain’t sovereign at all.”

-- Soup Campbell

Soup Campbell mentored Kennon Vaughan. Kennon was the only survivor in a plane crash, where four of his friends died on impact. They were in a plane with one of their church elders. 2023.

“the *righteous one* shall live by *his faith*”

Today, how are you living?

“Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust” -- Elie Wiesel

“There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still” -- Corrie ten Boom

The difference? Hab 2:4, the just live by faith.