



How To Cope When Life Is Unfair

THE SEARCH FOR WEALTH, PROSPERITY AND WELFARE IS THE FOCUS OF MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD. YET, HOW CAN YOU KEEP GREAT EXPECTATIONS AND HIGH HOPES WHEN THERE COMES A TIME WHERE EVERYTHING GOES WRONG, DREAMS ARE SHATTERED, DISEASE BREAKS INTO THE FAMILY AND SORROW DEVOURS YOUR HEART. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE CAN FIND MEANING IN LIFE AND KEEP HOPE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING AROUND US SEEMS TO BE UPSIDE DOWN?.

When God called Joshua to succeed Moses in the leadership of Israel, He presented Joshua with a brief formula of success, "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success" (Joshua 1:8). As time went by, however, many within the people seemed to overlook that counsel from God. A few centuries later, we find prophet Habakkuk disturbed by the moral and spiritual decay of his people. The wicked oppressed the righteous; justice was perverted and the law did not have any power.

Habakkuk appealed for God's intervention, but it seemed that God was not willing to answer (Habakkuk 1:2-4). Originally, it seems that Habakkuk had asked God to encourage a revival within the people, and if that would not work, let God work a supernatural punishment that would draw the people to repentance. However, God would not do either one of those. Finally, God's answer came (Habakkuk 1:5, 7-11). God was going to urge the Babylonians to destroy the people of Israel. Now, Habakkuk is really bewildered. That was not what he really wished for the people. He could not understand why God had not taken action in time, and when He did, Habakkuk would not understand why He acted that way. How is the prophet of God going to solve that dilemma? To understand

God's action in that context, Habakkuk turns to his theology, that is, to what he knows of God; he clings to that which he trusts is true about God. See **Habakkuk 1:12**, "O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish."

Habakkuk reasons, 'O God, You are everlasting. You were before this difficult situation came up and You will still be after it goes away. You are much bigger than this small issue here. You are much bigger than this tiny stretch of history. And since You are bigger than this, You are able to see how the situation fits to Your master plan. "O Lord, my God". Sovereign, matchless, everlasting. Nothing gets away from Your control because You are the King and Legislator of the whole universe. "O my Holy One". 'You cannot fail. Whatever You do matches Your perfection.' "O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock...". Habakkuk stands firmly on the Rock of Ages, in the knowledge of God's immutable character. And the culmination of all that reflection comes in chapter 2, verse 4. **Habakkuk 2:4**, "...but the righteous will live by his faith". That is one of the most important statements in the Bible, one that becomes a key text in the New Testament (Read Romans 1:18, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38).

It was faith in God that restored Habakkuk's well-being. He knew God was everlasting, above and beyond any time limited event. He knew that God was the Sovereign, Lord, the One in control of the universe. He knew that God was Holy and would never make any mistake that He was faithful and would never break His promises. God was doing what had to be done. Now, Habakkuk feels much better. Nothing has changed yet the situation is still difficult. But interestingly enough, he brings the matter to an end in **chapter 3, verse 17** by saying, "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the

fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls..." In other words, if every natural phenomenon suddenly ceased to happen, if your world turned upside down all at once and you lost all your references, "yet", says Habakkuk, "yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour." (Habakkuk 3:18). When you do not understand the circumstances surrounding you, you may know that it is God who is in control.

Finally, Habakkuk says, in verse 19, "The Sovereign! LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights." Similarly, you may walk at the edge of a precipice or through the valley of the shadow of death, and never lose hope in God. How can you obtain such a confidence in God? Well, knowing God and learning that He is Everlasting, Sovereign, Holy, Unfailing, and that He always keeps His promises. This is faith! There is also this vital concept: If you believe in God, you must also believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is the way through which God meets our needs. That happens when we let Jesus live in our hearts.



I encourage you to trust this God who is Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Unchangeable, Loving, full of grace and truth. Believe also in His Son Jesus Christ, the One who promised to save you eternally, and by doing so, you will build your life on the strong foundation of the unfailing Rock of Ages.

Galatians 2:20	Paul lived by faith in Jesus.
Galatians 2:20	Because Jesus gave His life for Paul (and for us).
Roman 5:8	God loves us regardless of who we are.
Psalms 23:1	God meets each and every one of our needs!!
2 Corinthians 5:7	We must not judge our lives for what we see, feel or touch.
Hebrews 11:1	The true value of our lives should be assessed through the eyes of faith.
Romans 8:39	When we live by faith, nothing can separate us from the love of God!!
Ephesians 6:16	Faith becomes your personal protective shield against everything, including temptation.
James 1	When we ask anything to God we must not doubt, and God will answer our prayers.
Hebrews 10:22	Go into the presence of God with a humble heart and solid faith.
Hebrews 12	Move forward in faith.
Romans 4	Be strong in faith.

Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has so much He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible - our Textbook for this seminar - offers **Lessons For Living!**

Lesson 1 - How To Cope When Life Is Unfair

1. True or False To grow in faith, we must see first and then believe ***To check your answer, see Corinthians 5: 7***

2. True or False It is important to develop faith not only in God, the Ruler of the universe, but also in His Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour who gave Himself on the cross for me. ***To check your answer, see Galatians 2:20***

3. True or False God does not answer our prayers immediately because He has limitations in time. ***To check your answer, see Habakkuk 1:12***

4. True or False Faith is our shield against the flaming arrows of the evil one, including against temptation. ***To check your answer, see Ephesians 6:16***

5. True or False We must trust God for what He is, in the assurance that He takes care of us even when we pray and the circumstances do not change immediately. ***To check your answer, see Habakkuk 3:17, 18***

