

Hope in the dark (pt.3) - Embracing

Habakkuk 3

Key Points:

- Biblical hope is not wishful thinking or unrealistic expectations. **Hope is the confident and joyful anticipation of God's Promises being fulfilled.**
- Habakkuk is a prophet speaking to God on behalf of the people. Chapter 1 is all about wondering and not walking away from God. Chapter 2 is about waiting and not giving up on God. Chapter 3 turns a corner.
- First, these are words of impassioned, exuberant praise (**Shigionoth** - v1) - in the valley, Habakkuk is praising **before** he's seen answers to prayer, or a change in circumstance. And it's all-in, full body worship - praising God not for the what but for the who (which isn't dependant on our experiences!)
- Next Habakkuk **remembers** the goodness & faithfulness of God (v.3-15). Teman and Paran are places where God took His people after the Exodus.
- Finally, having wrestled with God throughout this book, we see Habakkuk **embracing** God (while still wrestling!) in v.16-19. In our valleys, whatever else is going on, it is so important to embrace God, even in the wrestling, and in so doing we discover that God brings us to an even greater place of intimacy (you can't have Ch.3, without 1+2)

Questions:

1. What's your favourite worship song? What does it say about who God is?
2. It's not uncommon to doubt God when life gets hard. What does this imply about what we believe about God (i.e. is trust dependant on our experience? Is this right?)
3. Who's someone you know that seems to trust God no matter what they're facing? What do you think is different about them?
4. Read Habakkuk 3:1-3. Describe a time when you saw the goodness of God or experienced His faithfulness.
5. How are you embracing God in the middle of a difficult situation? Or, how would you like to embrace Him?
6. Share how the faithfulness of God in your past has strengthened your faith today.
7. What are some answers God has given you in the past that you can write down as an anchor for the future? Share about a time when you either waited on God or tried to force His timing. What did you learn?
8. Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. Make some time to listen.
God, we will lift our hands while we're waiting. Even louder than our fears, we will praise You. Because You are good. Jesus, You are so good. Amen!
9. Start doing. Spend some time praying, thanking, and praising God for His goodness and faithfulness. What could Shigionoth praise look like for you tomorrow (all-in, full-hearted, praise before provision, for the who not the what)?