

Habakkuk #6

“It’s Dark Down Here, Lord, Please Take My Hand”

Habakkuk 1:1-17; Leviticus 26:14-39;

2nd Corinthians 5:6

God’s Word teaches that the soul is designed to function in a system of discipline under God-ordained authority and lack of respect for that authority not only destroys the soul’s capacity for life but also its capacity for any lasting happiness.

And the main reason we lack respect for God is that we just don’t know Him well enough to trust Him in everything because we haven’t allowed ourselves to fully experience His love.

God will not permit anyone to take His place in judging or evaluating other believers!

The only solution to judging is sharing the perfect happiness of God, a great problem-solving device that’s a fantastic alternative to judging others!

Psalm 128:1 says in effect that a believer who shares God’s unshakable happiness is so happy that he doesn’t stick his nose into other people’s business and judge them or gossip about them even if he knows they’re failing.

Confidence in the Lord is a description of spiritual self-esteem.

In the Church Age, the failures of other believers must be left in the hands of the Lord for evaluation and disciplinary action and if we don’t learn and apply this lesson, we’ll never grow up spiritually!

Confidence is based on knowledge of biblical truth and the more biblical truth we have in our soul, the greater becomes our confidence and the greater our confidence, the more effective our priesthood and our ambassadorship.

What’s the purpose? To show that our relationship as believer-priests is based on absence and the relationship must come through correspondence.

Our confidence doesn’t come from personally seeing the Lord or even personally being with the Lord, it comes from our correspondence from the Lord.

We have a relationship with the Lord even though we are absent and that relationship is contained in the Word of God and the relationship is carried on with God the Son outside of this world while the devil’s ruling it.

What do you do when your belief system is threatened; when God seems to be strikingly absent?

First, learn from Habakkuk and take the issue to God and stop agonizing on your own and start thinking; because when we’re thinking, we’re not worrying and when we’re worrying, we’re not thinking.

Don't react with emotion which leads to panic and fear; 1. stop and think; 2. claim a promise of God; 3. reverse your concentration away from problem onto the great Problem-solver, God and then 4. form a biblical conclusion.

Habakkuk says, my God is not limited to time space or matter; my God controls history by Himself because He's the everlasting God.

Don't you love it? It's not 'I was or I will be but I am, aka, I always was and always will be!' Habakkuk knew people in his day just like we know people in our day are saying God is dead, so while the world was saying that God was dead, Habakkuk proclaims God's eternity; the fact that He cannot die.

God is no respecter of persons and He despises comparative reasoning.

Habakkuk is now humble and he will leave the solution to this problem to God.

Jesus Christ who controls history has all the facts and we don't, so it's best for us to leave all judgment to Him.

There is so much we don't understand but that doesn't seem to stop us from speculating for God in an attempt to prompt Him to do our bidding.

This is the abundant life Jesus spoke of; a life of fullness even during judgment and conquest because it's the life that God has for every person who is a believer in His Son.

In *Habakkuk 2:4*, the prophet says: *'the righteous person will live by his faithfulness'*

meaning the justified or just one shall live by faith which is the mentality

of a believer who can face any circumstances or adversities because he's walking with God the Father in experiential abiding fellowship with Jesus Christ, so he can have peace that passes understanding, joy unspeakable and all the fullness of His life.

If we have confidence in the Lord, we're not running around gossiping and judging other believers.

The Lord must postpone discipline when believers judge, for then they become the judge, shoving the Lord right off the bench - the ultimate in human pride.

None of us completely masters the area of temptation and we all too often sin like this until we reach the point of spiritual self-esteem; where sharing God's happiness as a problem-solver begins.

Happy Christians don't criticize others or try to straighten out everyone around them; to the contrary, they take up the slack for this vicious area of sin.