

## THE OTHER SIDE OF FAITH

### Biblical Faith

#### *It's Not What Most People Think It Is*

Hebrews 11:6

#### Faith is not...

- ✓ positive **thinking**
- ✓ the absence of **doubt**
- ✓ a strong **imagination**

#### Faith is...

- ✓ trusting God enough to **do what he says**
- ✓ trusting God enough to **not quit**

### Habakkuk

#### *Two Tough Questions And A Song Of Faith*

**Question #1:** Why are you tolerating **wickedness**?

**God's Answer:** I'm **not**. But I have a plan **that will shock you**.

Habakkuk 1:1-11/ Daniel 1:1-2/ Jeremiah 1

**Question #2:** Why would you use **them**? They're **worse** than we are!

**God's Answer:** I'll deal with them **later**.

Habakkuk 1:12-2:20

**Habakkuk's Song of Faith:** I'll trust you **no matter what happens**.

Habakkuk 3:1-19 (especially 3:16-19)

### Life Lessons To Take Home

#### (1) How To Complain To God

Habakkuk 1-2/ Psalm 13/ Psalm 22/ Psalm 88

#### (2) How God's Judgment Works

1 Peter 4:17, Hebrews 12:4-13, 1 Timothy 5:20-21 & James 3:1/ Daniel 1:1-2

#### (3) What Real Faith Looks Like

Hebrews 11/ Habakkuk 3:16-19

- ✓ Sometimes faith looks like a powerful **conqueror**
- ✓ Sometimes faith looks like a stubborn **survivor**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 6, 2012

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching *The Other Side Of Faith*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Larry listed three things that faith is not. As you look at the list, which one do you think people are most likely to think is a part of biblical faith?

Is there one that you identify with more than the others?

2. This weekend, we heard about how to complain to God. How comfortable are you with the idea that it's okay to complain to God?

When do you think complaining goes too far and becomes whining?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend that faith is trusting God even when it makes no sense and nothing works out like it's supposed to. We can whine about God not acting like we want him to, or become more comfortable with the fact that we will never fully understand God and why he does what he does. How do the following passages reinforce the idea that many aspects of God and how he works will always be a mystery to us?

**Isaiah 45:9-13**

"Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker,  
to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground.  
Does the clay say to the potter,  
'What are you making?'  
Does your work say,  
'He has no hands?'  
[10] Woe to him who says to his father,  
'What have you begotten?'  
or to his mother,  
'What have you brought to birth?'  
[11] "This is what the Lord says--  
the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:  
Concerning things to come,  
do you question me about my children,  
or give me orders about the work of my hands?  
[12] It is I who made the earth  
and created mankind upon it.  
My own hands stretched out the heavens;  
I marshaled their starry hosts.  
[13] I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness:  
I will make all his ways straight.  
He will rebuild my city  
and set my exiles free,  
but not for a price or reward,  
says the Lord Almighty." [NIV]

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the Lord.  
[9] "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. [NIV]

**Romans 9:20-21**

But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' " [21] Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? [NIV]

2. This weekend, Larry encouraged us to hang on and not quit when life gets difficult. Throughout the Bible, God provides us with motivations for not quitting. What motivation do you find in the following passages that could help us persevere in difficult times?

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. [NIV]

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. [2] Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. [NIV]

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. [NIV]

Think of a challenge or difficulty someone you know is currently facing. How could these truths be of help to them in continuing to be obedient and not giving up?

3. Another example of someone who said "I'll trust you [God] no matter what happens" is Job. Unbeknownst to him, God gave Satan permission to take away his wealth, his ten children and finally his health. In the following passages, how could Job's responses to all his losses help us develop a more realistic and appropriate response to difficult (and seemingly unfair) circumstances we may face in our own life?

**Job 1:18-22**

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, [19] when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

[20] At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship [21] and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;  
may the name of the Lord be praised."

[22] In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. [NIV]

### **Job 2:7-10**

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. [8] Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

[9] His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

[10] He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. [NIV]

How do you think Job's responses fit in with Larry's point in the sermon on complaining to God?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. What was most helpful to you from this week's sermon or homework in doing what God says even if it makes no sense, or not quitting even when nothing works out like it's supposed to?

2. Is there an area of your life you've been complaining to God about? Are there any steps you need to take to be in a better place to hear him when he responds to your complaint?

Prayer Requests:

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