

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Pt 3: Living By Faith In Troubled Times

INTRO

- Are you a thrill seeker – e.g., roller coasters, sky diving, rock climbing?
- If the answer to the first question is “yes” share one of your thrilling experiences.
- If the answer to the first question is “no” was there a time when you tried an activity that convinced you that you are not a thrill seeker?

READ

Habakkuk 2:2-4

REFLECT

The golden age of the nation of Israel was over and in rapid decline. The kingdom had been split and the Northern Kingdom was no more. Soon the Southern Kingdom (Judah) would also be destroyed. Israel would have no temple, no king and no land. The prophet was given a vision of the future that predicted the rise of the Babylonian empire and a period of great peril for the people of Israel – one that would eventually lead to the restoration of the people of God.

In this passage God gives the prophet instructions:

- Write the vision down
- Wait patiently
- Live by faith

The story of God has four chapters: creation, fall, redemption and recreation. This is the worldview we should embrace for our lives. One of the chapters is “the fall or the part of our world and our lives that involves brokenness.

Qu: Why do you think it's so difficult for us to admit that a difficult season may be upon us?

When we wait patiently for God, we have the opportunity to consider our motives. Do we follow Jesus just because He can give us a better life?

God uses difficult seasons in our lives to strengthen and change us.

Qu: Can you think of a time when you were changed for the better because of a difficult season?

Martin Luther said that God uses tough times to move us from “my will be done” to “thy will be done.”

Qu: Why is it so important to know God as a loving Father before we can accept such a challenge?

The Babylonians were prideful and put confidence in their power, but God told his people that the just shall live by faith.

There is great joy in living a life that makes room for growing trust in the promises of God.

RESPOND

- Is there an area of your life right now that you cannot change with your own abilities and are completely dependent on God to come through?
- How can you practically apply what you're learning to your personal life?

PRAY

- Pray for one another in whatever challenging circumstances are present.
- Pray for one another to see the big picture of what God is doing in your life.

When you come to the place where God is all you've got, you discover that God is all you need!