

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

Habakkuk 3: 17. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Though the circumstances around us may strangle the joy in our lives, there are many good reasons to rejoice in the Lord.

Please do take the time to read Habakkuk. It's just three chapters. The first chapter is his anger and lament. The second is what God speaks to Him. The third is a chapter of praise and thanksgiving.

When we read Habakkuk, we see the prophet so distraught, because of all the enemies of Israel who are destroying them. They are cruel and merciless. Habakkuk could not believe God could have allowed so much evil in the lives of His own people. That is why he asks, "Lord your eyes will not see evil, how then have you allowed so much evil?"

It was at that time, the Lord asks him to write the vision and to wait for an appointed time when He will deliver His people and prosper His people. Sometimes during dungeon times, times when we think there will be no deliverance and that we are eternally trapped, God gives this vision of deliverance, restoration and prosperity.

The whole promise looked so incredible. But Habakkuk chose to trust in God's word, rather than what his eyes saw.

Though the earthly enemies are so formidable and cruel, the Lord reveals to Habakkuk in the third chapter that He Himself will come down for battle. The magnificence and splendor of God coming down in all His glory is well described by Habakkuk in chapter 3. It was only this revelation that gave him the utterance of the above verse. He said though there is no material blessing, no food to eat, nothing to drink, no livestock etc, yet he chooses not to merely trust in God, but rather to rejoice in God.

It is a very tough choice to choose to rejoice in the Lord, when all around us things look very discouraging and sometimes even suicidal. But the deep realization of things that whatever happens the Lord is still on the throne and is Sovereign gave Habakkuk reasons to rejoice.

Even when there are absolutely no reasons to rejoice, Habakkuk says yet I will rejoice. I will rejoice even if there is no harvest, no livestock, no fig fruits, no friends, no bank balance, no approval... Yet I will rejoice.

This is the same for us too. We have to look beyond all the darkness around us, the hopelessness and trust God will work all things for good for those who love Him. This perspective is what will light the joy in our lives. The joy that comes from the realization that no matter what I lack, God will provide. And now in the midst of uncertainty and poverty I can still rejoice. If Habakkuk could rejoice we surely can rejoice also.

Lord I pray you put your joy in us. But for your grace we cannot be happy or rejoice in you. Put your joy in us Lord. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Hallelujah!