

Transforming Daily
“... O Lord, revive your work ...”
Habakkuk 3:2

The book of Habakkuk has a sense of Job in its pages. Habakkuk is a prophet to Judah, the Southern kingdom. His message from God, his burden, is to let God’s children know that He is going to discipline them by the hand of another nation because of their willful disobedience to Him. Habakkuk poses questions to God that He answers revealing His plan for Divine retribution (“Jobesc” like). At first it doesn’t make sense to Habakkuk why God would use an ungodly, or more specifically a nation of demagoguery, to bring Judah to repentance. Keep in mind, the Northern kingdom has already been led into captivity and the Southern kingdom is only twenty plus years behind them in being led into captivity as well (hence the prophecy of Habakkuk). But in the end, Habakkuk praises God for His infinite wisdom and gracious and loving tender mercies expressed toward Judah even in His wrath.

God owes no explanation to anyone for His work, will, and ways, but He gives explanation to His children through His dialogue with Habakkuk. The questions from Habakkuk seem reasonable and rational, but not just. God is not fere (thankfully), He is just. The answers God gives in response to Habakkuk’s prayer reveals the depth of His compassion for His people, and just how faithful He is to His Word. God disciplines whom He loves. Judah had many years and they had multiple prophets to hear, listen to, and understand, the prophets specifically to Israel, the prophets shared between Israel and Judah, and the prophets specific to Judah. Yet they still chose their own way.

I can’t remember what the occasion was, but my dad and I were assigned the task to assemble my children’s bicycles. He put together one of them, and I the other. He chose to follow the manufacturer’s instructions, and I chose to rely on my previous experience and reason. My dad not only finished first, he put it together right. I spent most of the afternoon trying to correct a mistake that I made assembling my bike. I can’t remember whose bike I had, my son’s or my daughter’s, but I remember them complaining because the other one was already riding theirs. They went out and rode around then came in and checked on the status of the other’s bike. This went on for hours. After a while they just shared the one bike that was assembled. Suffice it to say that I messed up the whole occasion and put a damper on the present just because I wouldn’t listen and follow instructions.

Are you reading the “Owner’s manual” (the Bible) for direction in righteousness? Is your life in need of a fresh wind from God or a fresh fire? Are you in the midst of receiving the chastening hand of God on your life? Is your faithfulness to Him being tested and strengthened? Is your prayer toward God, “O Lord, revive Your work?”