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Rev. Debbie Sexton

"Yet, I will rejoice"

KJV Habakkuk 3:16-19

16 *When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.*

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:*

From verse 16 Habakkuk was forced to examine himself. He was reproved in **Habakkuk 2:4**, now we hear his remarkable confession of faith. Habakkuk has received God's message loud and clear and submits to the will of God's timing.

Although: In Spite of the fact,: Here we observe two major changes: (1) Habakkuk walking by faith and not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**) and (2) a dramatic change in his language. Habakkuk went from looking outward (saw everything about to fall apart), to looking within (self examination), and finally He looked up. *Song*: Chicago Mass Choir "When everything else fails, I can go to the Rock". When God is for us, those against us will never succeed. If God seems far away or distant, you're too far away. Draw closer to Him.

Note: NKJV **Job 38:1-5**: God spoke to Job out of the whirlwind: "*Who is this who darkens Counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man, I will question you and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?*"

18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my Salvation.

1 Thess 5:18 *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

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.

Psalms 73 The worship leader Asaph wrote, "*Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped: I had nearly lost my foothold.*" Habakkuk has moved from complaint to praise. He recognizes that God alone is the source of salvation and strength, and this is good news indeed. What strength do we have against the storms of this life, whether of financial ruin, natural disasters, overpowering enemies...Through Christ, we have victory. Bear in mind: Jesus was born into a life of poverty, tossed about by a raging sea, was

attacked by religious and political enemies, and stared death in the face all the way to the cross. Yet He submitted to the conditions of humanity, trusted in God, and waited for God's deliverance. His victory is ours as well. Habakkuk confessed God's ability to grant the surefootedness like that of a deer that tread the mountainous high places: without God, we could do nothing. God will give us the courage and strength we need to get through the rough patches of life. **Phil. 4:4** KJV *"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice."*