



**HOPE  
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**A STUDY IN HABAKKUK**



## WEEK THREE

by Sam Dobrotka

While a teenager, I was invited to go on a camping trip with my friend and his family. One of the afternoons was spent sailing on the lake. I had never been sailing before; so, I was nervous when I was put in charge of controlling the angle of the mainsail. When a breeze came, I let out some of the rope, allowing the sail to catch more wind, sending us gliding across the lake. It was a wonderful experience... until the breeze became a much stronger wind. As the wind picked up, it pushed harder and harder against the sail. Instinctively, I held the rope tightly, not letting the wind pull it out of my hands. The harder the wind blew, the harder I pulled against it. I was determined not to let the wind beat me. And then something very unexpected happened—the boat capsized. While we were treading water, waiting for my friend’s dad to right the boat, my friend told me that rather than pulling against the wind, I should have actually let out the rope so the angle of the sail would have deflected the wind instead of catching it. While his explanation made perfect sense, it was counterintuitive. I wanted to fight the wind.

Life is sometimes like my sailing experience. We are gliding along, life is good, and then, out of nowhere, the winds of adversity start to blow. We find ourselves doing all we can to get rid of the problem. And yet, as we learn from Habakkuk, maybe what we should be doing is positioning ourselves to weather the storm instead of fighting it.

As we learned earlier in this series, Habakkuk was very upset with the immoral behavior and spiritual depravity of his people, and was further dismayed that God wasn’t doing anything about

it. And then, when God said He would intervene, it was in a manner Habakkuk didn't expect. Not only was God going to remove the evil from Israel, He was going to remove Israel. Israel wouldn't be a sovereign entity again until 1948, almost 2,600 years later.

After wrestling with his situation, read Habakkuk surprising response below:

*“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior” Habakkuk 3:17-18.*

Habakkuk had repositioned his sail to weather the storm. His joy was not in his circumstances. His joy was based on the character and nature of God. His circumstances were terrible, yet He knew God was good. By shifting his focus away from his circumstances and toward God, Habakkuk positioned himself to be able to go through a very difficult season.

We can't avoid the storms and valleys that come in life. However, from Habakkuk we learn that the most important thing we can do is find joy in our God.

## **QUESTIONS**

Read Habakkuk 3

What is your tendency when facing a storm in your life?

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How can reflecting on God's character change your perspective?

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What are some practical ways you can find joy in the Lord this week?

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