

Pastor's Corner

November 2009

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

—Habakkuk 3:17-18

There are times in our lives when it seems that everything around us is collapsing and that all our endeavors and all that we have invested our time, energies, and money in is failing. There are times when our business career seems to crumble, and those to whom we have ministered disappoint us. Such times, as difficult as they are, are opportunities to stop and examine what is truly important to you.

Habakkuk witnessed the collapse of most of what mattered to him. Still in the midst of all the loss, through the failure and disappointment, he could distinguish what was precious to him and what was not. He realized that he could say, with sincerity, that if everything around him failed, he still would rejoice in God. If the fig tree, which represented life, bore no fruit; if the vine produced no grapes; if the flocks and herds stopped reproducing, he would remain faithful to God. His praise might not come easily, but he still would choose to praise God.

Habakkuk could not make the fig tree produce figs, nor the vine produce grapes, and he could not make the herds produce offspring. He had no control over what was happening around him. What he had and what he could hold on to was the promise of hope—that no matter what, God was there and God had provided and would continue to provide for his Children.

That same hope was carried into the New Testament and revealed in the life of Jesus—the hope that no matter what happens, God will take care of us, and He knows our needs. God also gave us hope of overcoming death. There is nothing in this world that we need to fear.

Do things in your life seem to be falling apart? You can still praise God. Your praise for God does not depend on the success of your endeavors, but on God's nature and His love and faithfulness to you. Ask God to help you look past worldly concerns and to open your eyes to the glory of God!

...do not fear, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
—Isaiah 41:10

God has never ever failed, or failed to keep a promise. God is faithful. So let us rejoice and give thanks for He is Good! Amen!

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