

“When the Going Gets Tough, God’s People (Learn to) Live by Faith”

In tough times, anyone whose heart is empty will succumb, but the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady faith really lives. (Habakkuk 2:4)

LEARNING TO LIVE BY FAITH IN TOUGH TIMES

1. Ask QUESTIONS

GOD, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, "Help! Murder! Police!" before you come to the rescue? (Hab. 1:2; Message)

GOD, you’re from eternity, aren’t you? Holy God, we aren’t going to die, are we? GOD, you chose *Babylonians* for your judgment work? Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline? But you can’t be serious! *You* can’t condone evil! So why don’t you do something about this? Why are you silent *now*? This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous and you stand around and *watch*! (1:12-13; Message)

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak and how I may reply when I am reproved. (2:1; NASB)

2. Always LISTEN

Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told.” (1:5; NASB)

“Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly. The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won’t be a lie. If it’s delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won’t be late.” (2:2-3; *God’s Word for the Nations*)

- Pay attention
- Wonder what is going on
- Wait for God to act
- Trust God to act

3. Listen and LEARN

I [hear] and ... in my place I tremble. ... I must wait quietly for ... the people to arise *who* will invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, *though* the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, YET I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*, And makes me walk on my high places. (3:16-19; NASB)