



Doug Williams
Lay Pastor

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“Taking Joy in the God of My Salvation”

Have you ever wondered what God is up to in your life or in the circumstances around you? Have you ever questioned why wrong seems to win? Over six hundred years before Jesus's life, death and resurrection, the prophet Habakkuk lamented over whether God would right the wrongs he was seeing in the world. In fact, the prophet begins his dialogue with God by complaining, “O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you ‘Violence!’ and you will not save?” (Hab 1:2). Have you had similar questions for God? God's immediate answer for Habakkuk is to turn his attention toward the nations to see and be astounded, “For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told” (Hab 1:5).

God assures Habakkuk that He will not overlook sin and will eventually right all wrongs. Until that day, the “righteous shall live by [his] faith” (Hab 2:4), trusting in a good God even when we can't immediately see the good He is doing. Habakkuk did not fully grasp how God could use a sinful nation to bring punishment on His own people for their rebellion against Him, and at the same time punish that nation which does so. Chapter 3 of Habakkuk is a closing prayer of the prophet. While he trembles in fear waiting for the invasion of the nation of Babylon (Hab 3:16), in the worst of circumstances Habakkuk rejoices in the God of his salvation (Hab 3:18). He then says with determined conviction, “Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation” (Hab 3:17-18).

Even though everything in his life and the lives of those he knows and loves be stripped from him, he will rejoice in the God who will save him. “I will rejoice” is the strongest way the prophet can say he will rejoice. In other words, in faith he will trust God no matter the circumstances. God will deliver and the prophet will trust Him even when he does not fully understand what God is doing.

Fast forward over six hundred years from Habakkuk and God most decisively rights all wrongs through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. The most tragic event in human history is also the most glorious—the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Jesus's unjust crucifixion, the justice of God is satisfied. God rights the wrongs in our world through Jesus's death and resurrection. Yet, we live today in an already-not yet tension. Jesus has made all things right and will one day make all things right. Until that final day, “the righteous shall live by faith” and “take joy in the God of my salvation.” So, no matter the circumstances in life you are facing, whether there are figs in the pantry or fruit in the fridge, we can take joy in the God of our salvation!

-Pastor Doug

April Birthdays

April 1: Kendrick Barjolo
April 2: Trevor Coleman
April 3: Glenna Calvert
April 4: Greg Brockman
April 5: Kelly Kramer
April 6: Gary Heilmann
April 7: Kim Spaulding, Atticus McDonald, Grace Dressel
April 8: Mary Pellum, Mason Salyers
April 9: Daniela D'Ettorre, Greg Campbell
April 10: Jennifer Bippus, David McDonald, Anita Thomason
April 11: Noel Pellum, Joyce Allison
April 13: Claire Barham
April 14: Josie Belcher
April 15: Bob Campbell, Heather Leverett
April 16: Holly Williams
April 17: Miriam Veltman, Johnny Ringstaff
April 18: Pickle Ray, Jack Cooper
April 20: John Nelson
April 21: Todd Calvert
April 23: Matt Coffman, Kip Eatherly
April 26: Philip Cooper, Joya & Naomi Cigoli
April 27: Eason Haley
April 28: Sasha Price
April 29: Lori Sharp, Dan Svoboda, Jo Ann Shanander

May Birthdays

May 1: Peggy Davis
May 2: Dave Hall, Patrick McPherson, Tom Stosberg
May 3: Cheyenne Lauder
May 6: Rebecca Whisenant, Paulette Sparks, Aileen Hawes, Paul Boyd
May 7: Jordan Snider
May 8: Laurene Tibbs
May 9: Bradley Embry
May 11: Patrick Wilkerson, Jason Bippus
May 13: Kim Toler, Val Logue, Abby McPherson
May 14: Matt Oliver
May 16: Evan Coffman, Marta Rowe
May 17: Dona Lee Hurrelbrink
May 18: Debbie Wilt, Doug Williams
May 19: Larry Smith
May 20: Linda Williams
May 21: Sarah-Katherine & Meredith Reynolds
May 22: James Tavelli
May 23: Charlie Cooper, Brayden Leverett
May 27: Marilyn Owens
May 28: Patrick Alyea, Bryce Butler, Spencer Barham
May 29: Charles Davis, Andrew Hitt
May 31: Bill Koch

Giving Updates as of 3/25/25

Year to Date Budget: \$1,001,077

Received to Date: \$1,000,260

Difference from Budget: (\$817)

Lottie Moon Offering: \$37,806.62

Annie Armstrong Offering: \$2,471.00