

You know The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings even when life gives us negatives. **Thanksgiving is a matter of perspective** Giving thanks is an investment in one's attitude...thanks giving is not free it cost a lot...giving thanks is an investment in moving forward in life..."To say we feel grateful is not to say that everything in our lives is necessarily great. It just means we are aware of our blessings.

"Real life isn't always going to be perfect or go our way, but the attitude of gratefulness for what is working in our lives helps us not only to survive but overcome our difficulties."

The attitude of gratitude is tough, because it dosen't let us stay feeling sorry for ourselves, no matter how little we may have. We are all lacking something, and so we are all challenged to answer the question: Do we have the attitude of making something of beauty out of what we do have, incomplete as it may be?

Personally speaking there have not been many potholes in the road of Life that I have not stepped in, but I am grateful for this, I have learned Jesus will never leave me nor forsake me.

When a person thanks God for the fact of being granted life, he or she is expressing the joy that comes from knowing, God wanted me to exist. And that infers there is a purpose for my life...

PHP 1: 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Gratitude is an attitude of thankfulness...for a God...who is more than enough... is greater than our need...more loving than we deserve... Hey you ask... how are you doing?.... I choose to be Grateful...

Gratitude is an investment in one's attitude...Gratitude is not free it cost a lot...Being Thankful is an investment in moving forward in life...remember that for each success you encounter, there are a

number of others around you –your family, friends, mentors, business partners, employees and managers – who had a hand in it. Just like our businessperson and politician, put a little effort into expressing your gratitude. Bend over backwards to appreciate all those positive influences in your life. Not only will they feel special and valuable, but so will you!

I'd encourage you to take the time out to thank those around you who've been crucial to your success and well-being.

The Apostle Paul expresses his thankfulness 47 times in his writing...and the vast majority of these are for the people in his life!

Saying thank you is more than good manners. It is good spirituality. **Do you know...that The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans in history have been more impoverished than these, who nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. Just as Thanksgiving is...a matter of perspective, TROUBLE IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE too!**

Paul commends to his readers the importance of a proper perspective toward trouble of all kinds , he reminds the church that the treasure we have from God is a treasure that is contained not in vessels of gold and silver but in what the apostle calls “jars of clay.” The thankful news is

This passage indicates the limits of the power of troubles that we experience.

NLT 2 Cor 4:7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure, This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

- Thankful/grateful for this great treasure of light..and power of God in my life...problem is I am a fragile jar of clay

Vs 8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

- **Paul describes the conflict that Christians must endure, but in every place that he describes this phenomenon, he describes at the same time its limits. Which we can be Thankful for...**
- **WE face great pressures and they are severe but they do not crush us...I am thankful for that**
- **We are Perplexed, confused by life, but not in despair. I am thankful**
- **Even in persecution, as serious as it may be, we are not abandoned by God. I am thankful for that!**
- **We get knocked down, but not destroyed. I am thankful for that**
- **And face Suffering that seems like death, yet Jesus will be seen in us through this...I am thankful for that!**
- **we may be overwhelmed, yet we have room for Thankfulness.**

The prophet Habakkuk, in his time of misery, **asked God the kind of question that so many of us have pondered, “Why do you force me to look at evil, / stare trouble in the face day after day?”** We have all seen the evidence of evil in our lives. We’ve all been touched by it. And we bear scars and wounds at various stages of healing. Surrounded by evil as if we are trapped in a dark prison cell of our own making, we are often downtrodden by our poor choices, we suffer the results of others poor choices, and were surrounded by a fallen world.

However, the book of Habakkuk reminds us that no place is too dark and no wall too thick for God’s grace to penetrate in a powerful and life-affirming way, and we can be thankful for that.

First Complaint *Habakkuk 1:1 This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision. ² How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! “Violence is everywhere!” I cry, but you do not come to save. ³ Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. ⁴ The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.*

The LORD’s Reply ⁵ *The LORD replied, “Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it. ⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands. ⁷ They are notorious for their cruelty and do whatever they like.*

Second complaint ¹² *O LORD my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal— surely you do not plan to wipe us out? O LORD, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. ¹³ But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they?*

2:1 *I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will answer my complaint.*

The LORD’s Second Reply ² *Then the LORD said to me, “Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.*

³ *This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. ⁴ “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.*

Justice will come, everything will turn out right!

^{2:13} *Has not the LORD of Heaven’s Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain! ¹⁴ For as the*

waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD. ²⁰ But the LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

Habakkuk's responds now in Prayer Habakkuk 3:1 *This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: ²I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by....*

He continues..

*¹³ You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. ¹⁴ With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. ¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. ¹⁶ I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. **I will wait quietly for the coming day** when disaster will strike the people who invade us.*

¹⁷ Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

*¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. **Keep going***

ISRAEL LOST THINGS VITAL TO THEIR ECONOMY

1. The FIG TREE will not blossom
2. No fruit on the VINES
3. The OLIVE trees will not produce
4. The FIELDS will yield no harvest
5. The CATTLE and the SHEEP are lost
6. HABAKKUK SAID, "I'LL JUST THANK GOD ANYHOW!"
7. and that will keep me going...I can be

sure footed, as I navigate difficult paths...

BUT WE CAN BE THANKFUL, GOD DOES NOT CHANGE THEREFORE WE DO NOT CHANGE ...all we have to do is keep on walking. And in Habukak's case continue to plant, water and wait expectantly for the Lord...

This faith in Jesus must carry us from the time of our first belief in Him... to the end of our lives.....just like habakkuk

- **Habukkuk was told to write this down so that we may run with it !!and Paul reaffirms this....**

NLT Romans 15 : ⁴ Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Not waiting on God is a sign of pride and immaturity... know this there is a difference between God's timetable and ours?

- **We think in terms of minutes, hours, and days, but God works in terms of years.**
- **when we feel God is distant or slow...it has to do with his timing and our timing...never His presence...for he is closest when we are in trouble..**
- **Often the purposes of God seem to be delayed but they always are fulfilled.**
- **God's delays are not His denials, and He has a loving purpose in every delay.**

So the solution...is like Jesus told his disciples....

NLT LK 12: ³⁵ "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.

Now there is another issue here ... the flip side of waiting...sometimes when the Lord comes we delay in responding to him...

- Run around and delay opening the door for him...because were trying to straighten up the mess we made...catch up on the work we should have done...get our attitude right...
- pray for strength for those that are tired of waiting for God or those who need their lamp lit again...ready for service...

WHY BECAUSE HE IS COMING ...HE WILL DELIVER, he will reward, he will judge, he will answer our prayers.....WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN...SO WE SERVE AND WATCH OUR LIVES ON DUTY...UNTIL HE COMES AND AMAZINGLY WHEN HE COMES HE WILL SERVE US...THE MASTER SERVING THE SERVANT...

Like 12: 37 The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! ³⁸ He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

So what this means is... THE ISSUE is TIMING...Thank God that he keeps perfect time...so keep servingkeep waiting ... keep on keeping on and when he moves respond!

⁴⁰ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

When you expect him to move respond he does not...but when you don't expect him...He shows up...so what your going through THE BEST IS YET TO COME ...you just don't know when its coming...so thank Him in advance! So keep on keep on keeping on! He will not delay, he will come at the exact right time!

end

