STRENGTH IN THE SUFFERING

13 APRIL 2025



17Though 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, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

— Habakkuk 3:17–18 (NIV)



PRAY

- Thank God for an answered prayer this week.
- Pray to fix your eyes on God, whether your situation this week was joyful or difficult.
- Pray to worship God not only when life's easy, but also when it's hard.

MEDITATE

Engage

Start the conversation with this question...

What's your go-to reaction when life gets overwhelming? Do you tend to run, shut down, or try to fix it all yourself?

Key Points



- When we're anxious, sad, or fearful, worship shifts our focus from the problem to God, who holds all things together.
- Why can we worship in hard times?
- Because God is still good. Even when we don't know why things are happening, we can trust that God loves us and has a great purpose for us.
- Because God is all-powerful and He has already won over sin, death, and fear.
- Because our worship is a witness to the world. Praising God in hard times shows that our hope is in Him, not just in good days.

Discuss Together (pick at least one)

- Can you share a time when worship helped you get through something difficult?
- Why do you think it's so hard to worship when you're in pain or struggling?
- What's one practical thing you can do to choose worship when your emotions or situations make it hard?
- Is there someone in your life who needs to see what it means to trust God in tough times? Pray for this person and tell them about how God helped you and changed your perspective.

PROCLAIM

Declare this truth based on your identity in Christ

Key Truth

In Christ, I can worship God even in the most difficult times.

Pray Together (pick at least one)

- Ask God for strength and peace to choose worship in the middle of fear, anxiety, or pain.
- Thank God for His unchanging goodness and faithfulness, even when life feels uncertain.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests.

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The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:19 (NIV)