

Sermon Notes Perfecting Prayer: Prayer of Agreement [Lesson 5-B]

Hearing and Agreeing With God Mike Bayer VillageAlive.com

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Hearing and Agreeing With God

Knowing God's will is a prerequisite for the prayer of agreement.

Habakkuk 2:1

Habakkuk Background

- Habakkuk was a man who sought answers.
- Habakkuk saw a dying world, and it broke his heart.
- Why is there evil in the world?
- Why do the wicked seem to be winning?
- He boldly and confidently took his complaints directly to God.
- And God answered with an avalanche of proof and prediction.
- Most of the first chapter is devoted to his questions.
- As chapter two begins, Habakkuk declares that he will wait to hear God's answers to his complaints.
- Then God begins to speak, telling the prophet to write his answer plainly so that all will see and understand.

When Habakkuk was troubled, he brought his concerns directly to God. After receiving God's answers, he responded ***with a prayer of faith.***

Habakkuk's example is one that should encourage us as we struggle to move from doubt to faith. We don't have to be afraid to ask questions of God. The problem is not with God and his ways but with our limited understanding of him.

Habakkuk got alone in order to get God's perspective. Before I can effectively pray in agreement with others I need to spend time with God so I can get in agreement with Him.

A. Stand Watch

I will stand my watch.

Meet with God regularly for prayer and reading of His Word...

1. Disciples watch? Mt 26:40

Jesus in the garden with Peter, James and John

Mat 26:38 Then He said to them, "**My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.**" **Mat 26:39** He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**" **Mat 26:40** Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "**What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?**"

ARE YOU WILLING --Cont...

Message Intro:

Before I can effectively pray the 'prayer of agreement' I must be able to **HEAR GOD** and **AGREE** with **HIM** first.

The OT prophet Habakkuk serves as a model for hearing God and then praying a powerful prayer of agreement with God.
(See chapter 3)

The watchman and watchtower, often used by the prophets to show an attitude of expectation and here are pictures of Habakkuk's attitude of patient waiting and watching for God's response.

Watch: From root arise, arouse. To watch, to refrain from sleep. In a moral and religious sense. Attention to God's purpose—mindful of threatening dangers and an alert mind, keeps it from all drowsiness and all slackening in the energy of faith and conduct.

2. Are you willing? Mt 26:41

Mat 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The tension between what we ought to be and what we are. Actually the flesh is drawn into the worlds way of reducing the standard!

- No one is perfect
- After all—I am only human
- I'll just try my best

3. Habakkuk's watch—

I WILL STAND...

For those who stand with God...

2Ch 20:17 You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you."

4. What is your watch?

- **Joshua 1:8**
Jos 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
- **Psalms 119:105**
Psa 119:105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
- **1 John 5:14-15**
1Jo 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us **1Jo 5:15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

B. Look for God

I will watch and see...

1. Unlike the disciples who fell asleep, Habakkuk declares his commitment to 'seeing.'
2. The word 'see' in this passage means spiritual observation and comprehension by means of seeing dreams and visions.

I am open to hear from God through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit!

- Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17
- Matt 5:8

C. Listen to God

He will say to me...

1. Are you willing to listen?

- **Hosea: Heartache**—Hearing God meant living out a message full of unfaithfulness and heartache with his wife.
- **Jeremiah: Cursed** As a result of hearing God, Jeremiah was cursed, mocked, put in jail, dumped in a well, beaten and no one believed his message!
- **Isaiah: No clothes:** God told him to go naked for three years.

Are you SURE YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM GOD????

2. 4-fold process of hearing

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the **word** of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the **word** of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

a. Communication: “*The **word** that was heard...*”

- Listening to God: The Bible is our guide for all the ways God communicates to us.

b. Comprehension: “*Received the **word**...*”

- Understanding: What God says...

c. Confidence: “*accepted the **word** of God...*”

- Trusting in what God says

d. Change: “*performs its [the **word**] work...*”

- Transformed by the **word** of God: being transformed by what God says...the work of the Spirit.

At the heart of all prayer is FAITH. Habakkuk questioned God, doubted God and wondered what He was doing or not doing. Through it all he prayed a wonderful concluding prayer of agreement and faith:

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's *feet*, And He will make me walk on my high hills.