

Praise

“Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Habakkuk 3:18

One of the more difficult things to do, in the Christian walk, is to will to praise when our feelings are in the way. Even though we do not want to be led by our feelings, we do at times allow them to influence our decisions to praise when everything around us is motivating us to do otherwise.

Habakkuk is writing during a time of spiritual and national upheaval. There were problems all around him. Because he loved his nation, his people, and wanted them to seek God with their heart, his life was being adversely affected by what was going on around him. He proclaims, *“Yet will I praise....”*

How about us; are we “willing” to rejoice or are we rejoicing only when we “feel” like it? Generally, to will to rejoice is not easy when things around us are going wrong, or at least not what we hoped for. In view of this horrendous national condition, Habakkuk states when the fruit is cut off, flocks are gone, and herds are not in the stalls, he still wills to rejoice. Get that?

By what he writes, he is recognizing the principle that rejoicing is first, an act of the will. Therefore, he chooses to put his mind in a mode of praise even though things around him are filled with uncertainties and problems both personal and national. The reason for his way of thinking is God! God is his strength. God is his stability in that He will not fail and Habakkuk will not fall. And, God will cause him to walk upon the high (victorious) places. At this poignant moment in his life, he voices this conviction through a confession of praise to God.

Remember, Habakkuk was an Old Testament believer. Old Testament saints did not have the same type of relationship with God as we do. Their covenant could not do what the blood of Jesus was able to do. Through the New Covenant He established provided a basis for God to move into the heart of man and dwell as opposed to the limitations of a man-made temple.

So, the Temple of God became a creative and redemptive work of His redemptive power. His Temple became a living organism, the Body of Christ. Now His Temple is the heart of the New Testament believer, the Church (Ephesians 2:12-22).

So what an awesome reason to praise God, He dwells within us. He walks through the same experiences we have because He is always present in our heart. We can make a choice to release His power into our circumstances through the exercise of praise (Psalm 149). Our praise opens the door or if you will, gives God permission to carry out His majestic plan in our lives through the words that proceed from our mouth.

The truth of this unfolds in our heart a little at a time as we take one step at a time toward the presence of the Lord and the fellowship of His Holy Spirit. Each encounter releases a divine flow of His Spirit into whatever circumstance we face!