

Wisdom Not Worry
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Habakkuk 2:1

I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint

There is blessing in the wrestling.

Why hasn't God answered your prayers? It's not because He doesn't hear them. No, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). It's certainly not because He is stingy. Jesus delights to give us what we ask. He says, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified" (John 14:13). Then why? Could it be He is inviting you to wrestle with Him in the kind of persistent, passionate often painful prayer that expects to hear from Him? There are some things you won't learn about God until you learn to wrestle with God.

Habakkuk's name means "one who embraces." Not the comfortable, warm embrace of a mother's hug but the firm grapple of a wrestler who won't let go. The name suits. Like Jacob who wrestled with God all night long and wouldn't let go until he received his blessing (Gen. 32), or the persistent widow in Jesus' parable who kept badgering until the judge finally gave in (Luke 18), Habakkuk engages in full contact prayer - "I'm not done yet, God. I need answers! So I'm going to find myself a spot on the wall and I'm going to wait. I'm not leaving until I hear from you." In wrestling with God, he learns to trust God.

By getting up close and personal with God, Habakkuk learns that at the very moment when we are certain God is against us, He is orchestrating all things for us. The wrestler who once prayed, "How long must I call for help and you don't listen" (Hab. 1: 2) eventually sings, "Though the fig tree does not bud...yet I will rejoice in the Lord (Hab. 3:17-18).

Are you wrestling with God? Don't tap out. As one with Christ who "offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears" to the His Father who rescued Him from death (Hebrews 5:7), there will be blessing in your wrestling.

Grateful,
Ben