

**Wisdom Not Worry**  
**Friday, May 29**  
**Habakkuk 3:1**

**A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On *shigionoth*.**

A friend visited our church not long ago. I asked what his impressions were. “Man!” he said, “You people sure know how to sing!” I loved his response.

The Christian faith is a singing faith. Of course, we sing when there seems to be every good reason to sing – births, baptisms, weddings, even graduations. Honestly, it takes very little for us to break out in a joyful noise. But even unbelievers are known to “whistle while they work.” The distinguishing mark of the faithful, however, is their commitment to sing even when they don’t have work, to sing when the rest wonder what possible reason we have to sing about.

Habakkuk shows how awe-filled silence before the majesty of God’s glory will inevitably lead to shigionoth. Shiggy what?” Shigionoth (shidge-yun-oth). It’s a word used only one other time in the scriptures as part of the title of Psalm 7. While there is some question as to the exact meaning of the word, most agree it is a term of musical direction, “to sing with wild emotion.”

Shigionoth. It’s the kind of singing you can’t keep quiet with the sort of emotion you can’t keep under wraps. Shigionoth is not an under-the-breath mumble of a junior high boy self-conscious of his changing voice, but an all-out, full-throated, passionately enthusiastic, wild burst of praise!

What is remarkable are the circumstances under which Habakkuk sings. In faith, he offers passionate praise *before* he sees the provision. “Though 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, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” Yet, I will shigionoth!

When your rights are trampled, your paycheck is smaller, your cancer is still active, your dreams are dashed, this is the time for shigionoth. Little shines the light of Christ more brightly than a believer’s songs in the dark. No matter what, by faith in the Sovereign Goodness of our God in Christ, shigionoth, dear ones.

Grateful,  
Pastor Ben