

## Equipped to be confident

How would you describe a confident person? Someone who appears to have it all together? One who has high self-esteem? An individual who has no doubts about their own ability? A dictionary definition of confidence suggests it is being self-assured as a result of believing in your ability to achieve things. Many of us would love to have this kind of confidence - or, rather, self-confidence - which has, no doubt, been a vital ingredient in the success of many people. Others might be more inclined to place their confidence outside of themselves, for example, in their country's economy. But we all know how shaky that can be! Or perhaps they place their confidence in another person, say, a marriage partner or business associate, but often this can be misplaced. The Old Testament book of Habakkuk gives us an excellent example of someone whose confidence was not in himself, his economy, or other people, but in his God.

**Questions and answers.** Habakkuk was one of God's prophets who lived in the country of Judah about 2,500 years ago. At that time, many of the people in that country were living extremely wicked lives, even though they were supposed to be the people of God. It seemed to Habakkuk that God was indifferent to the fact that evil people were prospering and good people were suffering. So, he began questioning God: How long is this going to go on? Why don't you do something? After a period of unanswered prayer, God responded to Habakkuk, but the answer wasn't what Habakkuk expected. God was going to punish the people of Judah through the Babylonians who were known for their wickedness and cruelty. Habakkuk had serious doubts about the way God was running the affairs of this world. Can you relate to this?

**Watching and waiting.** Habakkuk then watched to see what God would do and waited for Him to do it. As he did this, God reminded Habakkuk that He is God and His character is just and faithful. As we watch and wait for God to act in our circumstances, we'll find that His answer to us is the same as His answer to Habakkuk. He reminds us of who He is and what He is like.\*

**Faith and confidence.** Habakkuk asked questions and received answers he didn't like or expect. He also watched and waited for God to act. As he did these things, he broke out into a declaration of amazing confidence in God. Why not take a moment to read this confident statement in Habakkuk 3:17-19? This was originally written to people who depended almost entirely upon the land for their living. This was their economy. Verse 17 talks about the worst case scenario which was the possibility of complete economic collapse. This might be a reality for you today if you've lost your job or have experienced a crash in your investments. Perhaps your worst case scenario is a health issue, where you, or someone close to you, are facing the possibility of a life-threatening illness and the difficult treatment that goes along with this. Or maybe you're facing serious problems in your marriage and there seems to be little hope of a positive outcome. How, then, do you respond to your worst case scenario? In the same way as Habakkuk did in verse 18: *"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior"* (NLT). Has Habakkuk taken leave of his senses? How can anyone rejoice when they're facing unthinkable circumstances? The answer is found in three words in verse 18.

- **"I"** - you have to decide to take responsibility for your response. It's your choice to rejoice.
- **"will"** - Habakkuk says he *will* rejoice and he *will* be joyful, not he *feels* like rejoicing or being joyful! He could focus on a disastrous outcome and be thoroughly miserable, or he could choose to rejoice and be joyful. We really can choose our response to bad circumstances in our lives.
- **"in"** - Habakkuk makes it clear that his rejoicing will be *"in the Lord"* and he will be joyful *"in the God of (his) salvation"*. This man acknowledged where his confidence really lay - in the Sovereign Lord who is in control. Making the decision to be joyful in the face of adversity isn't enough, but when we focus on God by celebrating His character, and believing His promises, we are able to rejoice in Him with confidence. Are you equipped to be confident?

\* Our [31 Days of Praise](#) is a helpful resource if you want to praise God on the basis of what He is like. It's free to download from our website.