

Dear Discouraged - Part 9
"Suffer for Significance"

Pastor Bill Bush
April 5, 2009

How does suffering fit into a significant life?

1 Peter 5:5-9

Humility: Honestly assessing myself in light of God's holiness and my sinfulness.

Pride: When I aspire to the status of God and refuse to acknowledge my dependence on God.

Significance:

Culturally defined: Individuals motivated by self-interest, self-indulgence, and a false sense of self-sufficiency pursuing selfish ambition for the purpose of self-glorification.

Biblically Defined: Serving others for the glory of God. (Jesus washing the disciples feet.)

Humility is the channel for God's grace into my life.

When I humbly depend on God's Grace, I...

***Cast away my worry. (v. 7)**

How do I cast my cares?

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything, tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers."
Philippians 4:6 (TLB)

"Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here." Colossians 3:2 (TLB)

***Watch out for deception. (vs. 8-9)**

The Story of Habakkuk

The Bottom Line: 1 Peter 5:10

"And He (Jesus) humbled Himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross." Philippians 2:8 (TLB)

BIG IDEA:
A significant life humbly depends on God's amazing grace!

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: Habakkuk was a man of faith who took his worries about the evil going on in Judah to the Lord. But God's response was not what Habakkuk expected! Begin your study by reading the Book of Habakkuk.

When, in your life, have you had an answer from God which seemed to contradict His character and promises? One that either did not make sense or come on your time schedule?

Faith in God and the willingness to wait quietly (when told!) gave Habakkuk a *divine perspective* on troubling circumstances. Discuss the idea that waiting for God's answer is *not* resignation. Rather it is *active trust* in God to provide fulfillment, in His perfect time.

Think of a time when you, like Habakkuk, were able to rejoice in the Lord during suffering. How difficult has it been to turn away from temporary trials and rejoice in the God of your Salvation?

Consider and discuss the idea that *no matter what trials we go through* in this life, they will always be less than what we have deserved for our sins. How's that for *divine perspective*?

*"I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation."
Habakkuk 3:18*