

When God's Gone: Looking Backward to Move Forward

How do I find contentment in the present and hope for the future?
(Habakkuk 3:1-13)

1. Remember that God has never been defeated. (Habakkuk 3:2)

"The primary reason we lose faith is because we forget the faithfulness of God."

Rehearse God's past faithfulness. (Habakkuk 3:3-4; Romans 15:4)

What are the truths and the thoughts that we rehearse to ourselves every day?

- God will never leave or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)
- Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)
- God delights in the details of our lives. (Psalm 37:23 NLT)
- There's no condemnation when we're in Jesus. (Romans 8:1)
- We find our identity and purpose in God. (Ephesians 1:11 MSG)

Remember the past, but don't remain in it. (Habakkuk 3:2)

What has God done in my life that I need to remember to praise Him for?

2. Choose joy and lean into God's strength. (Habakkuk 3:16-19)

God-given joy is often found when I "get" the "yet". (Habakkuk 3:18; Nehemiah 8:10)

Personalize my relationship with God. (Habakkuk 3:18b-19a)

God-given joy is based on my position, not my condition.

My condition may be fragile; my position with God is not.

What is my position with God?

- I am a child of God. (John 1:12)
- I am chosen. (1 Peter 2:9)
- I am forgiven. (Ephesians 4:32)
- I cannot be separated from God's love. (Romans 8:38-39)
- God will complete the work He started in me. (Philippians 1:6)

How do we get this kind of joy?

- Remember God's past faithfulness.
- Ask for it.
- Spend time learning God's promises.
- Embrace the "yet".
- Choose God's joy daily.
- Surround yourself with people who bring joy.
- Begin the week in worship.
- Belong in a life group.
- Be the church by serving.