

READ Habakkuk 3:17-18

- How do you suppose people can turn trials and difficulties into praise and joyful living?
- Have you or anyone you know ever wondered through trials, “Where is God?” (what’s difference between people that wonder where God is and people that approach life as ‘conquerors’?)

4. GOD HAS HELD TRUE TO HIS PROMISE

READ the following verses:

John 16:33 NLT- I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

Revelation 21:3-4 NLT- God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

Hebrews 10:36 NLT- Then you will receive all that he has promised.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT- For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.

- Which verse is the most encouraging promise for you?
- What is it about the promise that bolsters your faith?



I: Jesus said LIFE would be HARD.

John 16:33 NLT-Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.

Isaiah 53:3 NLT-He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

II: LIFE has held TRUE to that PROMISE.

III: PERSPECTIVE is vital in this STRUGGLE.

James 1:2-3 NLT- When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow

Romans 5:3-4 NLT-We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 NLT- Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

Romans 8:35, 37 NLT- Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

IV: GOD has held TRUE to His PROMISE.

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Truth doesn't take polls. Truth doesn't care how one votes. Truth doesn't change- LIKE IT OR NOT. In this series we will look at how the never-changing gospel can change the way we deal with reality.

For Discussion:

- What's one of the hardest things you've had to face in life?
1. **LIKE IT OR NOT: LIFE IS HARD!**
 - What are two things that helped you understand this harsh reality?
 - **READ John 16:33**
 - Why would Jesus tell people that this life will have trouble? Is this helpful or discouraging?
 - What in Jesus' life would lead you to say that Jesus knew this reality better than most?
 - **LIFE HAS HELD TRUE TO THAT PROMISE.**
 - How have you seen these promises come true in your life?
 3. **PERSPECTIVE IS VITAL IN THIS STRUGGLE.**

READ James 1:2-3

 - How have you seen faith, testing, endurance play out in life's struggles? (you or someone you know)

Read Romans 5:3-4

 - Why do you suppose character only comes through patient-endurance?