

▶ INTRODUCTION

When a child cries, we can learn about him:

- Whom he cries to shows to whom he belongs.
- What he cries about shows what burdens him.

Our cry shows our **burden**.

Our burden reveals our **identity**.

Identity: either self-seeking or God-seeking.

True faith shapes our **identity**, our **burden**, and our **cry**.

The Faith That Cries to God

Habakkuk's **Identity**

Habakkuk's **Burden**

Habakkuk's **Cry**

▶ Habakkuk's Identity → Habakkuk's Burden

Hab. 1:1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

There is not much information about Habakkuk's identity.

"I am not important, but whom I am talking about is."

Why are you? I am Habakkuk, the prophet.

Why are you here? I am proclaiming the burden from God.

▶ Habakkuk's Cry

Historical information on Habakkuk:

- Northern Israel had fallen to the Assyrians.
- Southern Israel is led by bad kings after the good king Josiah:

Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:32)

And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:37)

And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

Who are you? (Identity)

Short answer: A Christian

Long answer: I am not my own, but belong to Jesus Christ.

Why are you here? (Burden)

I am proclaiming my Lord!

The law of God is paralyzed, justice is perverted, violence everywhere in Judah, God's people! Now we can understand Habakkuk's cry in verses 2-4.

"How long"

This is God's cry throughout the Bible because of his people's lack of faith, unfaithfulness.

Exo. 16:28 How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?

Num. 14:11 How long will this people despise me? How long will they not believe me?

Psa. 4:2 How long shall my honor be turned into shame?

How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

Mat. 17:17 How long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?

This is also God's people cry because of the wickedness of this world.

Rev. 6:10 How long, O sovereign Lord, holy and true before you will judge and avenge...?

Hab. 1:2 How long shall I cry, and you will not hear?

Habakkuk is questioning and complaining to the Almighty God!

Likewise, children go and cry to their parents!

- They belong to their parents.
- They know they will not be turned away.

Habakkuk cries to God out of faith!
He **knows** his God in whom he trusts!

Applications:

- ☛ Study the Bible! The more you know him, the more you will trust him!
- ☛ In any situation, come/cry to him! He is your heavenly Father, he'll never turn you away!

Habakkuk cries to God, his **cry** reveals his **burden**.
He cries for God's sake. He is a God-seeking man (his **identity**).

**What do you cry about?
What burdens your heart?**

When we pray for wickedness to be wiped out, consider two things:

- 1. Often we ask it for our own comfort.**
David asks God to search his heart (Psalm 139:21-24)
- 2. We ourselves are the wicked!**
None of us are righteous by our own merit.

The only righteous man comes right here, straight down to the mess.
Not only to get his own hands dirty, he took all the mess upon himself.
He died, hanging on a tree, to purify us.

His name is Jesus.

- Identity** : Holy, holy, holy God.
- Burden** : to save you and me, his chosen people.
- Cry** : to his Father.

We are sinners. We will be crushed and destroyed when God punish all evil.
But Jesus was the one **crushed, for you and for me.**

Isa. 53:5

*He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

Without Jesus, we have no right to call on God, to cry to Him.
Without Jesus, we stand condemned because we are sinners.

Only by faith in Jesus, we can have peace with God, adopted to be his children.

In Jesus, we have a new identity! A new heart, a new burden, a new desire. **God-seeking.**

COME TO JESUS TODAY!

Come with all your questions,
Come with all your doubts.
Come and pour your heart to him.
Come as you are, and he will transform you,
He will purge you and make you whole.

Isa. 1:18

*Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD;
Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow,
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall become like wool.*

When you ask God, "How long?" You are praying for God's judgment to be executed.
Are you ready? Are you loved ones ready?

Share the gospel, pray for his coming, pray for the lost. Cry to him by faith in Jesus!