

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY 137

**VISION: A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF HABAKKUK**

*I will stand at my GUARD POST; and I will keep WATCH and SEE what He will SPEAK to me. Then the Lord said, "RECORD THE VISION."*

**4 KEYS TO HEARING GOD from Mark Virkler's Communion with God**

1. *I WILL STAND ON MY GUARDPOST*...Have a quiet place to quieten yourself before the Lord.

**BE STILL.**

2. *AND I WILL KEEP WATCH TO SEE*...Look for vision as you pray.

**HAVE VISION.**

3. *WHAT HE WILL SPEAK TO ME*...Recognize God's voice as a spontaneous flow within...**LISTEN TO SPONTANEOUS INNER THOUGHTS.**

4. *THEN THE LORD SAID, "RECORD THE VISION."* Write down the flow of thoughts and pictures within you.

**JOURNAL.**

**What is Vision?**

Vision(from the Hebrew *chazown*): a dream, revelation or oracle(from *Strong's Concordance*)-Vision is seeing events and manifestations or revelations of the supernatural world with awakened and elevated natural facilities(*The Prophet's Dictionary*) Basically, vision, in the context that we are using it, is an oracle from God which often is defined and delivered prophetically from the Lord to a prophet and from a prophet to the Body.

Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision*[no redemptive revelation of God], *the people perish, but he who keeps the law*[of God, which includes that of man], *blessed, happy, fortunate*[and envious]*is he. AMP*

*If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed. The Message*

Habakkuk: Habakkuk was a praying prophet who confronted the Lord in his prayers and asked: *O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence and thou wilt not save!* (Habakkuk 1:2) He had a great burden because his own people were wicked and violent and not living godly lives and not honoring the holiness and justice of God, and the Lord answered that He would use the Chaldeans(Babylonians)to punish His people Judah for their sins. The Babylonians were described as dreadful, merciless, violent, idolaters, fierce, scornful and terrible.

Today we are in a similar position, and the Lord is releasing judgments even on His people through the Babylonian World System. The good news is that Babylon will eventually fall, and the Body of Christ will began to look up, for its redemption draweth nigh. Why does God release judgments? Because He loves His people so much that He uses heathen nations to punish His people so that they will repent and come back to Him.

Habakkuk's Reaction to Seeing the Vision(Habakkuk 3:16): *When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble; when He cometh up unto the people, He will invade them with His troops.*

Two Unfulfilled Prophecies (Habakkuk 2:2-3) *And the LORD answered me and said, "Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come. It will not tarry."*

1. Hebrews 10:37 tell us that Habakkuk's vision was the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, a future event that *is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie.*
2. The second yet unfulfilled prophecy is God's ultimate purpose on the earth as recorded from Habakkuk 2:14(and also Isaiah 11:9): *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

The Kingdom of God is everlasting, has always been and is and always will be. Mankind, however, has not walked in the full revelation of the Kingdom and will not fully walk in that fullness until both of these prophecies are fulfilled. When the *Knowledge of God* or *the Knowledge of the Glory of God* fills the earth, Isaiah 11 and 12 tell us what the world will then be like:

1. All of the animals will not longer eat each other or harm humans.
2. Children will not longer be afraid of or harmed by wild animals.

3. There shall be no accidents or death.
4. Jesus shall stand as the standard around which all nations will gather. All men will look to Christ for safety and deliverance.
5. Jews will again become missionaries taking the Word of God and preaching Jesus from Jerusalem to all nations.
6. All nations will seek Jesus.
7. There will be universal peace.
8. His rest shall be glorious.
9. He will gather the outcast of Israel.
10. He will set His hand the second time to recover His Jewish remnant.
11. Envy and pride shall depart.
12. All adversaries will be cut off.
13. There shall be a highway of holiness for the remnant of His people.
14. The righteous shall be caught up in praise for Him.
15. The Gentiles shall seek Christ and will bless the Jewish people.
16. There will be no fear.
17. The righteous will be full of joy.
18. The inhabitants of Zion will sing and cry out and shout the greatness of the Holy One in the midst of the remnant company.

#### Habakkuk's Conclusion After Seeing the Vision(Habakkuk 3:16)

*Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will joy in the God of my salvation. KJV*

*Fig trees may no longer bloom, or vineyards produce grapes; olive trees may be fruitless, and harvest time a failure; sheep pens may be empty, and cattle stalls vacant-but I will still celebrate because the LORD GOD saves me. Contemporary English Version*

*Though the cherry trees don't blossom, and the strawberries don't ripen, though the apples are worm-eaten, and the wheat fields stunted, though the sheep gates are sheepless, and the cattle barns empty, I'm singing praise to God. I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God. Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer. I feel like I'm king of the mountain. The Message*

## My Personal Vision for First Love Ministries

1. **To train and equip believers and to send them out in ministry-***But you shall receive power [dunamis], after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8*
2. **To lay a foundation of the Word of God, especially emphasizing what Peter calls “present truth”(2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:12), so that the believers here will stand no matter what happens** *Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)*
3. **To raise up a fearless Remnant, (AKA as a Gideon’s Army or Zion or Bridal Company) of passionate for Jesus, sold out overcomers who walk in obedience to the Word-**We want to help prepare this Last Days’ Remnant so that it can help usher in the manifested Sons of God and the Kingdom of God, as the Bride makes herself ready and is sanctified and cleansed *“with the washing of the water by the word, that He may present this Bride to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish”(Ephesians 5:26-27).*
4. **To have a place where people are allowed the freedom to operate in all the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the 5 Fold Ministry offices in balance-** This ministry will use these tools in a balanced way, never putting our focus on manifestations but always keeping the focus on Jesus, in an effort to reach people in the highways and byways and for *“the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the Body of Christ till we come into the unity of the faith...”(Ephesians 4:11-13)*
5. **To bring healing-Spirit, Soul, and Body-to wounded people-***Your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23 KJV I pray that God, who gives peace, will make you completely holy. And may your spirit, soul and body be kept healthy and faultless until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23 Contemporary English Version*

6. **To have an Isaiah 61 ministry-emphasizing preaching, healing, and deliverance-***The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives, and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord-the year of His favor-and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant[consolation and joy]to those who mourn in Zion, to give them an ornament-a garland or diadem-of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened and failing spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness[lofty, strong and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.*
7. **To have a name as a place that loves-***By this shall ALL men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35*

## HE'S STILL WORKING ON ME

By Joel Hemphill

### CHORUS

He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be.  
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars,  
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.  
How loving and patient He must be, He's still working on me.

### VERSE ONE

There really ought to be a sign upon my heart,  
Don't judge her yet, there's an unfinished part.  
But I'll be perfect just according to His plan  
Fashioned by the Master's loving hands.

### VERSE TWO

In the mirror of His Word reflections that I see  
Make me wonder why He never gave up on me.  
He loves me as I am and helps me when I pray  
Remember He's the Potter, I'm the clay.