

Title: **When Habakkuk Cooks a Stew (Part 3)**
Text: **Habakkuk 2:2-4**
Date: **August 14, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

If we want to get right with God and live, it is not enough for us to merely place our faith in Jesus, we must also be faithful to him. But thanks be to God, it's his grace that enables both!

Last week we focused on Paul's use of Hab. 2:4 in Gal. 3:11. And there we saw that he foregrounds the flavors of justification—that we're not saved by works of the law but by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. But this week, we're going to look at how these words are used in Heb. 10:38. And here we're going to see sanctification come out more prominently.

1. That We Need It

You need endurance. You've got to keep trusting in Jesus and "[doing] the will of God" (Heb. 10:36) if you're going to receive what's been promised and live. The author of Hebrews uses Hab. 2:4 to reinforce this point (cf. Heb. 10:37-38).

2. How We Get It

We don't get sanctification by relying on own strength and flesh. This was made abundantly clear last week as we looked at Gal. 3. There, if you remember, Paul rebukes the Galatian Christians for the way they began by hearing the gospel with faith but then thought they were to continue and reach perfection on their own. Nothing could be further from the truth (cf. Gal. 3:1-3).

When we come to Jesus by faith—when we trust that we are justified before God by his good works and not our own—it actually leads to our own Spirit-empowered good works, or fruits. These fruits, therefore, are not the basis or grounds of our justification but rather the evidence of it. They show we truly have it, that we truly get it and are living free in the love of God.

The only way to truly bear the fruit of the Spirit is to freely receive the gift of the Spirit. And the only way to truly receive the gift of the Spirit is to freely receive the righteousness of Jesus in justification. Justification and sanctification come together. It's a package deal. You stay on the gospel and grace and you are empowered by the Spirit towards love and good deeds.

It's really not that hard of a concept to understand. Think of it. If you had just played and won the multi-million dollar Powerball lottery and you knew that that fortune was going to hit your bank account by the end of the week, wouldn't it change the way you handle your money today?

When you go out to dinner with your friend are you going to demand that he pays half like you used to, even though you know he just lost his job and he's struggling to get by in the current economic environment? No! Instead, you'd feel freed up to pay for it, wouldn't you? You'd feel freed up to stop worrying about yourself and to start loving others in need.

It's not all that complicated to understand how this works. The hard part is truly believing, "insisting" even, "knowing" deep down that, because of Jesus and the gospel, with God we have "a better possession and an abiding one" (Heb. 10:34).



Reflection Questions

- Read Heb. 10:19-25 again. What stands out to you here? Why does the author say we ought not to neglect gathering together (v. 25)? Since the pandemic, have you been more prone to neglect this? What's been the effect on your faith and your walk with Jesus? How can you press back in?
- Read Gal. 3:1-3. What is the error these Galatian Christians have fallen into? Have you ever fallen into something similar? How does the gospel set you free?
- Read Titus 3:3-8. How might insisting on the fact that you are justified by God's grace and not by your works actually lead to good works and more fruit of the Spirit in your life?
- Read Heb. 11. What enables all these saints to do good deeds? How does this relate to what we've seen in Hab. 2:4? How might all this apply to your own life right now?

W

E

L

C

O

M

E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for the

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our church *outwards* in love for the

Neighbor | We are the Family of Christ, created and brought into covenantal relationship with him. This value presses our one another.

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Mercy Hill Youth Hangout - Today!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service this Sunday at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. And we even plan to provide some pizza! Our plan, weather permitting, is to meet at the picnic tables in the pavilion around the back of Allen at Steinbeck Elementary. See ya there!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at youth@mercyhillchurch.org.

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

At the request of some in the congregation, registration for the Covenant Membership Class is now open! If you are interested in becoming a member or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with what we're all about, please register online. We will leave registration open for the next few weeks, then we'll pick a Sunday to hold the class.

Scan the QR code below to find a link to sign-up!

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.