

## THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

### HABAKKUK 2:4

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever been broken-hearted? (Ps. 69.16-20)
2. Habakkuk saw something that left him troubled. (Hab. 1.1-4)
3. Three times Habakkuk asks God why He tolerates sin and iniquity. God answered in Hab. 2.4. (cf. Hab. 1.3,13,14)

#### I. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- A. God responds to Habakkuk by reminding him that He is still in charge and has a plan in place. (Hab. 1.5)
- B. God elaborates on His plan. (Hab. 1.6-11)
  1. **VERSE 6:** *“For indeed, I am raising up the Chaldeans”*
  2. **VERSE 8,9:** They will come like a tornado and leave nothing but death and destruction in their wake.

#### II. THE PERSON OF GOD

- A. Habakkuk wonders how a God who is good and pure ever be involved with the Chaldeans? (Hab. 1.12-14)
- B. God responded by reminding Habakkuk that He will also punish the Chaldeans. (Hab. 2.1-19)
  1. Feeling like he had crossed the line for questioning God, Habakkuk waits to be corrected. (Hab. 2.1)
  2. God responds with four woes. (vs. 9.12,15,19)
  3. Habakkuk needed to live by faith. (v. 4)

#### III. THE PACE OF GOD

- A. Reeling from what he had just discovered, Habakkuk utters a prayer to God. (Hab. 3.1-14)
  1. Habakkuk talks about God. (vs. 2-7)
  2. Habakkuk talks to God. (vs. 8,9,12,14)
- B. Christians survive spiritually when we live every day by faith in God’s involvement and character. (Heb. 13.6,7)

**CONCLUSION:** Paul believed in God even when he carried his thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12.9).

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**JUNE 21, 2026**

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**June 21, 2026**

#### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM**

### Bearing Fruit

Bearing fruit is seen in two ways. First, the fruit we bear is seen in the good we do for others. Paul wrote that we are to be *“fruitful in every good work”* (Col. 1.10). The phrase, “good work” literally means that which is done to the profit of another. Second, the fruit we bear is seen in the character we manifest in our lives. Galatians 5.22,23 refers to the fruit of the Spirit and lists nine attributes. In John 15, Jesus gives us the formula for bearing much fruit.

First, to bear much fruit, we must abide in Christ. Jesus said that *“a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me”* (John 15.4). To bear fruit, we must study the life of Christ and His teachings, and then imitate Him (John 13.12-17; 1 Cor. 11.1)

Second, to bear much fruit, we must choose to be productive. If you back up in the text, Jesus said that *“every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away”* (John 15.2). You cannot bear fruit if you are not in Christ, but you can be in Christ and not bear fruit. That is because bearing fruit is a choice. Therefore, Paul wrote to Christians reminding them to be *“careful to maintain good works”* (Titus 3.8).

What does it mean to bear fruit? It means that we live by the teachings of Jesus (John 15.7,8).  
CLP

## LIVING SACRIFICE

### ROMANS 12:1

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “sacrifice?”
2. **Romans 12.1:** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice”*
3. What does it mean to offer yourself as a living sacrifice?

#### I. MOTIVATION

- A. **Romans 12.1:** *“I beseech you”*
  1. Beseech (parakaleo): It carries the idea of pleading.
  2. Who wrote the book of Romans? (Rom. 1.1)
  3. Jesus is pleading through Paul. (cf. 2 Cor. 5.20).
- B. **Romans 12.1:** *“I beseech you, therefore, brethren”*
  1. The first eleven chapters of the book tell us how to be right with God. (Rom. 11.33-35)
  2. These are the *“mercies of God.”* (Rom. 12.1).
  3. We are motivated to present our bodies as a living sacrifice because of all that God has done for us.

#### II. DEFINITION

- A. **Romans 12.1:** *“present your bodies.”*
  1. Present (paristemi): Lit., to stand by the side. It carries the idea of offering something up to God.
  2. We are to offer our bodies to God. (cf. Rom. 6.13)
- B. **Romans 12.1:** *“living sacrifice”*
  1. A sacrifice is a specific offering to God where the offering is slaughtered. (cf. Luke 9.23).
  2. It is a living sacrifice. We constantly live by using our bodies to bring glory to God. (cf. Gal. 2.20)
- C. Three descriptive words.
  1. **Romans 12.1:** *“holy.”* Set apart, consecrated. Our lives are to be set apart for God. (1 Cor. 6.19,20)
  2. **Romans 12.1:** *“acceptable.”* Lit., well pleasing. We live our lives to please God. (Eph. 6.6; John 12.43)
  3. **Romans 12.1:** *“reasonable service.”* That which is logical, rational. Serving God makes sense.

**CONCLUSION:** To be a living sacrifice, it requires a shift in how you think. (Rom. 12.2; Phil. 2.5).

## What Does Love Look Like?

Telling someone that obedience is the ultimate proof of love seems strange in a world that equates love entirely with emotion. After all, modern culture teaches us that love is simply a feeling we fall into and out of. But genuine affection is always demonstrated by action.

In 1 Kings 3, we see a fascinating description of love for God. Solomon's love was more than just a feeling of affection. It was demonstrated by his obedience to the laws of God.

First, love is an active choice. We read that *“Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David”* (1 Kings 3.3). Solomon's love for God was visibly measured by his willingness to follow God's laws. Jesus expressed the same principle to His disciples when He said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14.15). Later, the apostle John wrote, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome”* (1 John 5.3). When I love God, I will not see His commandments as a burden, something that I have to do. Out of love, I will actively choose to obey the commandments of God.

Second, love is an ongoing action. In 1 Kings 3, Solomon's love is described as *“walking.”* In the Bible, walking is not *“one and done.”* It is a lifestyle. We cannot claim to love God while only obeying Him when things are easy or convenient. Nor can we claim to love God while walking in the opposite direction of His will (1 John 1.6). Consider the example of our everyday choices. When we wake up, we decide how we will speak to our spouse. When we go to work, we decide whether we will conduct our business with integrity. Every righteous choice we make is an ongoing expression of our love for our Creator. True love is a daily walk (2 John 6).

Third, love yields to authority. Obedience requires submission. It means acknowledging that God's way is better than our own. Jesus plainly stated, *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me”* (John 14.21). When we submit to His word, we are placing ourselves under His protective care. In contrast, rebellion is a failure of love. Do you find it easier to resist temptations when your heart is focused on the cross? Are you more inclined to draw closer to God when you remember His grace? Our obedience grows in direct proportion to our love. If we love Him, we will gladly submit to Him.

Our obedience is the outward expression of our inward love. When we keep His commandments, we show the world exactly who sits on the throne of our lives. That is what love looks like. CLP