

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

September 16, 2013

The Lord Is My Joy!

HABAKKUK 3:17-18 NLT – (17) 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, **(18)** yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

The prophet Habakkuk had a hard job. A Jewish civil war had divided Israel and Judah into bickering neighbors. Then the Assyrians, who conquered Judah, began to decline as an empire; the Babylonians would rise as the next world power. Judah was being judged for her unfaithfulness to God and Habakkuk was wondering why the judgment seemed worse than the crime.

Yet, in the midst of this, Habakkuk praises God. He praises God even when he is surrounded by circumstances he does not understand. There are times when the best response that we can give is praise; the only option is to rejoice. *Don't let unresolved issues* keep you from God's presence for there are many things that we will not understand on this side of heaven.

SCRIPTURE READING

NEHEMIAH 8:10

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are at our best when we serve God from our hearts.

September 1, 2013

