

Some of the most godly people I've ever known were called upon to endure great suffering. They could have grown bitter and resentful, yet because they knew Christ and walked in the joy of His presence, God blessed them and turned them into people who reflected Christ.

Suffering and success go together. If you are succeeding without suffering, it is because others before you have suffered; if you are suffering without succeeding, it is that others after you may succeed.

*Hope for Each Day*  
Billy Graham



Habakkuk ministers during the “death throes” of the nation Judah. Although repeatedly called to repentance, the nation stubbornly refuses to change her sinful ways. Habakkuk, knowing the hardheartedness of his countrymen, asks God how long this intolerable condition can continue.

God replies that the Babylonians will be His chastening rod upon the nation—an announcement that sends the prophet to his knees.

*Open Bible—NAS*

Habakkuk = *the one who clings to*



Human beings do not readily admit  
desperation. When they do, the  
kingdom of heaven draws near.

Philip Yancey





Sometimes I think we are afraid to say what we are feeling, terrified that if we admit how we are truly feeling, then our faith will crack.

But the opposite is true. It's when we suppress the pain, stuffing it down and denying it, that our faith becomes so hard and brittle that it breaks.

*Hope in the Dark*  
Craig Groeschel



We need to learn to trust Him even when we can't feel Him, believe in Him even when He doesn't make sense, and follow Him even though we're not sure where He is leading us.

One of the unexpected benefits of going through a difficult season is that it gives us the chance to stop and reevaluate our priorities.

*Hope in the Dark*  
Craig Groeschel