

November 2 Devotional

Virtue / Negative Trait	Scripture (NIV/NRSV)	The Habakkuk Takeaway
Humility	James 4:10: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."	When God’s plan (like using Babylon) seems incomprehensible, humility is the necessary posture God calls us to and trusting that His ways are higher than our understanding (Hab. 2:1).
Pride	Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."	The Babylonians, full of pride, saw their conquest as their own power. God’s answer declares that their haughtiness is a temporary vanity that guarantees their own eventual destruction (Hab. 2:4).
Justice	Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."	Habakkuk’s initial cry (Hab. 1:2-4) stems from the <i>absence</i> of justice. God’s requirement is righteous action, and His call to faith for the righteous, that leads to His promise of vindication.
Injustice	Psalms 7:15-16: "Whoever digs a pit and scoops it out falls into the hole they have made. The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads."	Injustice is self-defeating. While it appears to succeed for a season (Hab. 1:11), God guarantees the wicked’s schemes will ultimately become the instrument of their own downfall (Hab. 2:6).
Righteousness in God	Psalms 37:39: "The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their fortress in time of trouble."	Righteousness in God is our ultimate assurance. He alone is our fortress and salvation (Hab. 3:17-19), in Him we can make the right choice because of His character not outside influences.

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Righteousness Among Men	Psalms 1:1,6: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked" V.6 "For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction."	Wicked men can impact and influence those who want to follow God. God's desire is for us to fix our eyes on God and walk in integrity, but he warns us that we generally can be influenced so be alert.
Living by Faith	Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."	Faith is the antidote to the problem. God's central command is that we are not saved by sight, but by faith (Hab. 2:4), but not just any faith but faith in Him and His forgiving plan.
Living for Desires	James 1:14-15: "but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."	The downfall of the proud (Hab. 2:5) includesp their lust for material things and power. Living for desires is a fleeting pursuit that leads to ruin; only faith in God provides enduring life.

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