

03.25.21 – “YET!” ...another Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Ok...Ok...Ok”

Scripture Reading: [Habakkuk 3](#)

Reflection: Twyla Gortsema

This writing comes because of our 7:17 AM Tuesday morning spiritual formation group. During our time together, we shared with one another our answers to the question on the weekly formation guide asking: “How has our journey through Habakkuk impacted you spiritually?” What came to mind, I shared with the Tuesday morning group, and I am now passing on per Pastor Henry’s suggestion.

For several years Gortsema Greenhouse was a “first job” entry for high school students. Marv taught many how to work outside of the home and to have fun at the same time. This included many of you within the Covenant family. How we enjoyed our business working with plants and God’s creation and His creative work.

And then a change occurred in the business world. The slump in our business came when a Chicago market fell and our buyers closed. We were faced with huge financial difficulties. And then came, on a beautiful day, a meeting at our bank with lawyers, stenographers, family, quietness, and numbers. After closure at this meeting, I walked outdoors into the fresh air. I was numb. The questions, “What happened?”, “How?”, and “Why?” poured over my confused mind. “All of these years eaten up, and no more plants?”

From somewhere (the Holy Spirit) while walking to the car, I was given the verse: “The fig does not bud, no grapes on the vine, no olive crops, no plants” and also in my version “...no more flowers in the greenhouse...YET, I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful and trust.” I had to go home and find the passage. Job? Deuteronomy? Nope, I finally found in Habakkuk. And Habakkuk has been my buddy ever since. This all happened several years ago. But this verse in Habakkuk continues to be my “go to” mentor as I walk my life journey in obedience and in this stage of life.

In the spring of 2005, shortly after this meeting, we decided to continue growing plants. A few weeks later, after deciding to continue growing plants, a severe snow and ice storm destroyed several of the greenhouses. We were overwhelmed. “Now what?” “Why?” “How Long?” Covenant family, workers, friends, and family came to pick up glass from the collapsed greenhouses. It seemed like a huge project of ruin. “Where God?” “Why God?” “No more seed to sow?” “No more plants to watch germinate and grow?” “No more watering?” “No longer kids coming to work?” “No more community sales?” “No longer trucks coming and going?” “NO MORE?”

This was now final, God’s way of saying the last word: “DONE.” (silence)

The time to lament was painful and uplifting. We could feel God’s plans, we just couldn’t see them. It would take me pages to share how God has cared for Marv and me through the survival struggles. Again, the words in this passage teach me “...**YET**, I will praise him.” God is our strength. This strength is always there. We just need to grab hold of it. Through all of this, God has provided many of you to stand beside us.

Do you have a verse that you hold onto after our journey through Habakkuk?

In Habakkuk’s name there are three “K’s.” Often while lamenting with God, in jest, I will use the three “K’s” in Habakkuk’s name.

“OK, God.”

“OK, God, if you say so.” or “Ok God, what do you think?”

“Ok, God, I get it.”

Prayer:

Ok God, I hear you saying....

Ok God, what do you think about...

Ok God, help me accept...

AMEN.

Songs for today:

[Give Me Jesus](#)