

SUBJ: GOD'S PRESENCE | FAITH IN SILENCE

08/18/2025

Hello everyone,

I received Richard's comments on Habakkuk. He was not as popular as Daniel, Ezekiel, Moses, or Noah, but his contribution is equally important because he sincerely directs all of his doubts and fears to God and trusts God's plan. Richard's comments are connected to the question I got on FAITH & FATE that I have captured and meditated on during the past few days...

While I was driving to work the other night, I suddenly caught this interesting question: "*On your life journey, there is a time when you are at an intersection where you have to choose which way to go. Do you take FAITH Avenue or turn to FATE Avenue?*" Afterwards, I have been meditating on it, and there are multiple concepts that come up. This is quite a profound and thought-provoking question that literally "popped out of thin air" while I was driving to work.!!!

In my case, many years ago I took FATE Avenue and I got lost because of my bad navigational skills! So, I decided to choose FAITH Avenue. This road was bumpy/rough and sometimes it was jammed by obstacles or heavy traffic. However, as I continued to stay on FAITH Avenue, despite the challenges or delays, I reached my destination and gained a wealth of knowledge from this experience.

From my perspective, when I was on FATE Avenue, I really tried to control my fate by utilizing all of my human knowledge and skills. I thought I was the master of my own fate. I was blinded by my arrogance, and I was trapped by the fear of losing everything I held dear in life. Eventually, I met my fate and lost everything, including my own life. By grace, I was given a second chance to continue my journey on earth. This time I take FAITH Avenue and I have been on it through the years after my car crash on Friday 04/13/1990.

Now, this question is constantly on my mind... It led me to think deeper about these 2 key points: Fate & Faith. Through my observation, FATE Avenue covers our human level, and FAITH Avenue leads to God's Presence.

I agree with Richard that we will find happiness when we understand what God has planned for us. But we need to be connected with God in order to have the guidance and to know Him. It is our human nature to act, doubt, scheme, worry, and so on. Most of us usually believe we can handle things that happen to us, but as a result we realize how immature and vulnerable we are! It is not easy for us to turn the control over to let God be the driver, and we are content with the route He is taking us. When things go wrong or do not happen the way we want, we have doubts and sometimes we question if God even exists. However, when we reach the bottom of the dark pit, we realize that God is there to comfort and guide us. At that point, we feel grateful and happy because we realize that God truly loves us. This is the level of total inner peace that enables us to overcome anything. But the interesting key here is the fact that nothing bad will happen when we reach this level of inner peace because we know/understand the reason or purpose of those difficult trials.

The aim of Master Lương Minh Đáng's HUE teaching as well as the GPE Meditation practice is to help us connect with God. We are easily distracted, overwhelmed or threatened by the turbulent conditions on earth due to the effects of human selfishness and power struggle. With the limited human abilities, we often think that the enemy is too powerful, the problem is too big, the pain is too much, the situation is hopeless, and so on. But if we find God's Presence and establish a connection with Him, then we can have mental clarity and inner peace because nothing is impossible to God. We can learn from Habakkuk's experience.

I hope you can establish a connection with God's Presence as our Mother Earth ship is heading towards turbulent storms, and I believe many of us have already sensed it as we observe what is happening around the world.

Thank you,
Vu Tran

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From: **Richard Austin**

Date: Sun, Aug 17, 2025 at 7:03 AM

Subject: Re: Reflecting on God's Presence & Faith in Silence

To: Vu Tran

Habakkuk was one of a few Bible books that although I wasn't as familiar with its details (until now), the main message of holding on despite adversity, rings true. In fact, one eventually learns to see the adversity as being part of the process. As our thoughts and ways aren't like God's at first, our growth and trust through it all allows us to naturally be more aligned whereas our thoughts and ways become more similar.

Reflecting on this, I was reminded of how you, anh Vu, relayed Master Dang's teaching about encountering heavy states of sadness/difficulty but as part of the Grand Plan and our path therein, we become yet happy again. I and others around me have witnessed this, but if this rings a bell, I'd love for you to re-elaborate this for me please? Hopefully this makes sense, lol!

Thanks!
Rich

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08/12/2025

Hi,

I happened to see the questions Habakkuk asked God more than a week ago, so I read the Book of Habakkuk. At the beginning (on Chapter 1), he complained to God because he could not understand why all the evil deeds and painful sufferings constantly happened. But at the end (on Chapter 3), he realized God had a plan as well as purpose for everything He created. It is impossible for the limited brain capacity to know God's plan and understand His thoughts as written in the Book of Isaiah (shown below):

The Lord says, *"My thoughts are not like yours. Your ways are not like mine. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55: 8-9 ESV)

God used Babylon as well as many powerful conquerors such as the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, or Germans to discipline the Jews. These conquerors had their glorious and victorious moments, but at the end they fell apart because of selfishness and power hunger. Throughout history, we have seen empires or rulers rise to the peak of their powers, and eventually collapse because of envy, greed, lust, pride, etc.

Habakkuk approached God with his concerns and doubts. We can relate to his view as we see what is happening around us each day. It seems the ones who are abusive, deceitful, manipulative, or wicked always win, and the people who are humble, kind, loving, or trustworthy cannot get a break! We cry out to God in the same way Habakkuk did, and it seems He is either not present or not listening.

But after God showed a preview of His plan to let the Babylonians conquer and teach the Israelites, it was something Habakkuk could never imagine! Eventually, he realized God is very much aware of what happens in our world and He has total control of everything although the situations may seem to be chaotic, irrational, or unjust to us.

Therefore, he declared his trust in God despite the fact that he could face difficult trials. I captured Habakkuk's complaints from the beginning and his declarations at the end as reminders for all of us.

Strength of Faith in Silence: trust God even when you suffer and do not understand why

Lord, how long must I ask for help and you ignore me? I cry out to you about violence, but you do not save us! Why do you make me see wrong things and make me look at trouble? People are destroying things and hurting others in front of me; they are arguing and fighting. So the teachings are weak, and justice never comes. Evil people gain while good people lose; the judges no longer make fair decisions. (Habakkuk 1: 2-4 NCV)

Fig trees may not grow figs, and there may be no grapes on the vines. There may be no olives growing and no food growing in the fields. There may be no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the barns. But I will still be glad in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3: 17-18 NCV)

It is our human nature to have doubts, fears, questions or worries when things go wrong. We are either distracted or overwhelmed by issues involving finance, health, job, relationship, and so on. How can we have Habakkuk's mindset to be happy with whatever God gives him! We impatiently want God to intervene right away when we are in a bind. We often complain that God is unfair when we cannot have what we want. We arrogantly defy God when we have intellect, money and power. We blindly turn away from God when we get lost in this material world.

After reading these 3 chapters, I can see Habakkuk's transformation from someone who is not happy with what is happening to his country and people. He brings his concerns and doubts to God with the hope of receiving some answers. Seeing Habakkuk's humility and trust, God shares a preview of His Divine Plan and it is far beyond Habakkuk's imagination. Finally, he reaches the point of being content with whatever God has in store for him. This is a state of total inner peace!

HUE & GPE practitioners are encouraged to apply the meditation technique on a regular basis, and one of the primary objectives is to establish a communication with God. It is easier said than done because of all the distractions from the internal and external circumstances, as well as the never-ending waves of difficult trials in life. I have seen many of us give up hope by thinking the problem is too big to overcome, or the pain is too much to bear, or the wound is impossible to heal. These distractions are similar to the interfering noises that block the communication line, and as a result, we cannot reach God for guidance or help. If we just let go of the doubts, fears or worries, and direct our focus on the One who created the universe, then we may get a connection. I use the example of a cell phone to illustrate this point. We can move to higher elevations to get a signal when we are in an area where the line is very poor because of interference or there is no connection. By attempting to clear the distractions, we are moving toward the stress-free zone so we can establish a communication link with the Higher Power.

Nowadays, we are living in a world covered by dark clouds and turbulent storms from all the acts of abuse, hatred, injustice, violence, etc. We desperately need God's Presence as well as His grace and love. To me, the examples or lessons from Job and Habakkuk are the "healthy nutrients" that help our spiritual seeds to grow strong. These seeds will become trees that bear wonderful fruits...

Furthermore, I also came across a very good reminder and kept it here for our reference:
For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. (Obadiah 1:15)

Thank you,
Vu Tran

07/27/2025

Hi,

We are living in a very turbulent and unstable world as we see the abuse, deception, hatred, injustice, and violence that constantly happens around us each day. Many people would ask, "Where is God?" We can easily be distracted or overwhelmed by these difficult trials and think that God does not exist or deny His Presence.

After our recent Zoom discussion on Saturday 07/19/2025, there were several "reminders" that came to me during my daily meditation. I wish to share these 2 points with you. The first one is about the Consistency of God's Presence, and the second one is about the Strength of Faith in Silence.

I happened to come across the following questions from the prophet Habakkuk as he witnessed all the problems around him:

"Lord, how long must I ask for help and you ignore me? I cry out to you about violence, but you do not save us! Why do you make me see wrong things and make me look at trouble? People are destroying things and hurting others in front of me; they are arguing and fighting. So the teachings are weak, and justice never comes. Evil people gain while good people lose; the judges no longer make fair decisions."

(Habakkuk 1: 2-4)

This is the first time I read the book of Habakkuk. It seems the problems he faced back then are still happening at the present time! He presented his concerns or doubts to God because he had a direct communication line with Him. As we read Habakkuk's questions, I believe many of us can relate to his feelings. However, I notice one point and it is about God's Presence. Habakkuk knew that God was present during those difficult situations, and he asked for guidance to understand God's reasons for allowing them to happen. Habakkuk showed the strength of faith by silently observing/enduring all the terrible situations that happened around him, and submitting his concerns or doubts to God rather than falling into the trap of human emotions, impulsive behaviors, logical mind, social pressure, etc.

Another powerful reminder came from the example of Mary, Jesus' Mother. She received a profound message at a young age, and she silently held on to her faith as the events unfolded. She went through the peaceful as well as turbulent times from the birth to the death of her son. Through the eye of a loving mother, she watched her son as a helpless infant, as a growing boy, as a young adult, and as a messiah. She could recall the memories of the happy moments with her son, and she also remembered every painful minute of his execution on the cross. Regardless of the situation in her life, whether it was the happy moment or the painful suffering, she always sensed God's Presence and silently kept her faith. As a human, we can imagine how hard it is to watch someone we love being tortured to death and she was present through the entire ordeal.

During the last Zoom discussion, I talked about the level of our GPE connection and the ideal scenario is to operate at 100% strength. I used the 5-bar WiFi connection strength as an example that we can relate to nowadays. Sometimes we reach 5-bar signal strength and the connection is good. But we may go to a region where there is too much noise or interference

and it drops to 1 bar or we have no signal at all. Therefore, we need to find a way to get the signal back! In this case, the interference or noise can be from external as well as internal sources such as job, finance, relationship, emotions, health, and so on. During the HUE Seminars, Master Lương Minh Đáng often talked about the state of being preoccupied, anxious, overthinking or fear that blocked us from reaching mindfulness.

GPE practitioners should utilize the Intuitive Potential (IP) to maintain the optimal connection strength or to re-establish the connection if the signal is lost. We should know that God is omnipresent and His Presence is always around us. Using the computer network analogy, the GPE Router is very close to us and we only need to connect to it. Each day, I begin with the GPE Meditation when I wake up, and it is similar to the way we start our computer or mobile phone to initiate the WiFi connection so we can use it throughout the day. During the day, whenever my mind is not preoccupied, I would do the mental prayer as well as transmitting GPE to areas or people. This process is a way of boosting my signal strength because I often encounter disturbance or interference that can cause issues with the GPE connection. By doing so on a regular basis, I began to acknowledge the consistency of God's Presence just as a loving Father who is always ready to embrace His children if they sincerely reach out to Him. Last night, I felt His embrace so strong as I walked to the elevator from the ICU to go back down to the ER, and I was surprised by this sudden warm sensation that I almost cried. I had to hold my composure and held my tears since I was at work! I know many of you have felt this warm embrace from Our Heavenly Father in the past, and you can relate to what I am sharing. We should constantly have this connection with Our Loving Parents in Heaven because it helps us to be effective witnesses of divine grace and love on earth.

Thank you,
Vu Tran

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07/23/2025

Hi,

This is my reflection on several points we discussed in the Zoom meeting last Saturday. I caught this message during my morning meditation and I had to capture it here for all of us to think about:

"God gives the female's soul a challenging and special role of motherhood so she can relate to the way He cares and loves His children. A mother will focus all of her effort and energy to nurture the tiny 'seed' inside her womb. When her baby is born, she devotes her time to make sure her child grows up in a loving environment. Many of us have forgotten how our mothers loved and cared for us when we were totally helpless as infants. We grew up and let all of the external and internal circumstances overshadow or undermine our mother's love, and sometimes we actually hurt our mothers because of our ignorance, impulse, selfishness, temper, and so on. Being a mother, it hurts very deeply when the child she loves so much is the one who turns against her. From this angle, we can imagine how God feels when His children defy, deny, despise, and turn away from Him."

Being parents, we often think of our children, especially when they are away from us. Our children may sense our presence or catch our thoughts during the moments they are desperate or lost, and they remember how much we love them. This is a very unique way Our

Heavenly Father helps us to know how much He always loves and cares for all of us although we are far away from Him.

A loving parent would always be there for the children when they are desperate, lonely, or lost, and they can feel the impact of mom/dad's presence. Since we dearly love our children, we keep them close in our heart, and this connection stays with us after we leave the physical world. From the spiritual realm, our soul continues to care for them and sometimes they may detect our presence or sense our energy at the moments when they are desperate, helpless, lost or in danger. This is a very important reminder for us because we do this for our children with the limited capacity, and we can imagine how much God can do for His children with His infinite capacity.

If we really pay close attention, we can sense God's Presence or feel God's Love all around us every day. Those who lost someone dear (e.g., parent, spouse, sibling, etc.) may still remember how their presence gave them the needed encouragement or lift when they really needed it. However, we are easily distracted or overwhelmed by all the external and internal circumstances in our daily life. The never-ending waves of challenges or problems in life eventually cause us to forget about those precious experiences.

I leave this message as a reminder for all of us, especially the GPE practitioners who wish to become the effective instruments of God's grace and love. Working the overnight shift in the hospital's Emergency Department is a training ground for me to develop my Intuitive Potential (IP) and my connection with God's Presence. Being a loving father, I am always ready and waiting for my children to ask me to teach them something. In the same manner, Our Heavenly Father is always there for His children. When we reach out to Our Heavenly Father with a sincere heart and truly trust Him, we will receive His graceful touch and divine love. Each night, I constantly sense His graceful touch or divine love as I walk into the Emergency Department, and I always acknowledge with my grateful prayer. Just like a loving father who waits for his child to come and learn each night, He is there on time every night to guide or teach me in the challenging/chaotic environment of the hospital's ER.

We can duplicate this process as we face anything in our daily life. This is the point and we need to remind ourselves of the Presence of Our Heavenly Father who loves us very much. With God's Presence, we can overcome anything on earth!

Thank you,
Vu Tran