

# CA Women's Gathering 2020 ~ RELENTLESS

Presenter: Janine Joseph, Past President-CA WMU

## IN PRAYER, God, Helps Us To Understand His Ways

A study of Habakkuk

What can we learn about prayer from the study of Habakkuk?

We only have three short chapters of Habakkuk's conversations with God, but they contain major principles of prayer:

### **1. PRAY WITH HONESTY**

Contrary to our worst fears, God delights in our honest in prayer. Habakkuk cried out, "How long?" (vs. 2) stripping himself of his neat prophetic robes and laying bare his impatience and frustration. He didn't hide his human doubts but displayed them before the One who had the answers.

We must be completely honest when we pray. We can question God if we are honest in showing our feelings. We can feel free to talk with God through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27)

God is able to hear all of our anger, loneliness, fear, faith, and love. God welcomes our thinking about His work in His world. God gave us a mind to study life and to learn from our experience. He wants us to ask questions about things we do not understand.

### **2. PRAY WITH A WILLINGNESS TO WAIT**

Waiting and praying go together. As Christians, we are not fulfilled until Christ's return. We are waiting for Christ's return. All of creation is waiting too (Romans 8:22-23)

### **3. PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE**

When we can't see what God's doing, only faith believes he's at work. Habakkuk believed. He didn't know how or when God would accomplish his promise. But he didn't need to know.

Ask yourself:

1. What words describe the way you pray?
2. How honest are you when you pray? Are you completely honest when you confess your sins to God?
4. How do you feel when you feel God is not listening to you?
5. How much do you listen for His answers?
6. How often do you rush to fill your prayer with your own words?

Praying the right way: (James 5:16)

- confess our sins and doubts
- let go of our desires
- let God direct our thinking