

(continued from the front)

- An aging parent is impossible to satisfy, and there's nothing you can do to change it.
- A loved one dies, and you can't regain your emotional footing.
- An unexpected financial setback occurs, and it will take years to recover.
- You're involved in a serious auto accident that injures someone.
- You act compulsively and do something terrible—something you never imagined yourself capable of.

God never alters the laws of nature just to give Christians an easy life. All the faith in the world won't exempt you from trials and tribulations. Faith is simply the handle by which you grasp God's grace, enabling you to weather any storm that batters your life. When you make your life a prayer, you never reach the end of your hope.

Some of the most marvelous and reassuring verses in all of Scripture come at the climax of the book of Habakkuk:

*“Though the fig tree may not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines;
though the labor of the olive may fail,
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
and there be no herd in the stalls—
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.”*

Habakkuk 3:17–18



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When Life Seems to Fall to Pieces



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There is a likelihood that your life will suffer a shattering blow. Your own little world may seem to fall to pieces. You may feel as though you are coming unglued at the seams. Young people describe this experience with a telling expression: “blowing your mind.” You become so tense and uptight that you're sure you can't take another hour of it.

- A son or daughter is picked up for possessing drugs.

(continued on the back)