

God, Do You Know I'm Hurting?

A committed believer can both wrestle with honest questions and embrace a genuine faith in God.

God, you're from eternity, aren't you? Holy God, we aren't going to die, are we? God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work? Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline? But you can't be serious! You can't condone evil! So why don't you do something about this? Why are you silent now? This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous and you stand around and watch! Habakkuk 1:12-13 (MSG)

What's God going to say to my questions? I'm braced for the worst. I'll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I'll wait to see what God says, how he'll answer my complaint. And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time." Habakkuk 2:1-3 (MSG)

Option 1: Despair of God's interest in us and in the world

Option 2: Become cynically convinced that God does nothing at all

Option 3: Wait on the moving of God

Wait patiently on God's redemptive and just purposes to be fulfilled.

But to keep me from being puffed up with pride because of the many wonderful things I saw, I was given a painful physical ailment, which acts as Satan's messenger to beat me and keep me from being proud. Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. But his answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me." 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (GNT)

Write out how you experience God moving.

Trust that God will act at the right time.

"Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, really alive." Habakkuk 2:4 (MSG)

Talk About It . . .

1. How optimistic would you say you are? What do you think of that?
2. What was the way children were disciplined in your home when you were growing up? What did you learn from that?

3. When is a time that you thought you were being treated unfairly by someone? How did you respond to that then? How would you want to respond now?
4. How impatient would you say you are? What do you think of that? How might you want to change?
5. What are some things you have difficulty waiting for?
6. When you are told that you need to “wait”, how do you normally react?
7. When is a time that you were tempted to be despairing?
8. What are some things that you think it would be helpful in your life if you were to write them down?
9. When is a time that you believe you have seen God at work?
10. When is a time that you waited patiently on the Lord?
11. If you were to write down three requests you have of God, what would they be?
12. What do you believe “living by faith” means?
13. What do you think it means that a person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, really alive? How would you like to experience that?