THE TIMING & TOLERANCE OF GOD

HABAKKUK 1:1-4; 1:12-2:1

U	"Ours is not to question why, ours is but to do or die" sounds like the battle cry most Christians yell with their lips while in their hearts they may be saying: "O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Why do you make me see iniquity?" Do you shout with Tennyson's warriors or do you question along with Habakkuk?
	Is it right to question God? Who else in the Bible questioned God?
	Are there different ways of questioning God that would point to right or wrong inquiry (see Romans 9:20)?
2	What was Habakkuk's emotional state when he asked God, "How long?"
	Behind the question of "How long" is the is the unspoken cry of "I have my limits." Have you ever asked God, "How long?" What was the issue for you? What limits were you hitting?
3	Have you ever been frustrated with God's timing?
	Read 2 Peter 3:9. How are God's timing and His patience related?
	Can you think of some biblical examples where God's delay looked bad at first glance, but resulted in a beautiful display of his blessing in the end? Can you think of an example of that in your own life to share?
4	You can use your struggles and agonizing questions to turn from God and renounce your faith, or you can cling to God and trust him for answers in his time.
	What is the difference between doubting God and waiting to understand God's purposes?

	Can you give an example of each from the Bible? From yourself? From people you know?	
5	It seems that there are both spiritual and social concerns that Habakkuk is complaining about. What are some of your spiritual concerns right now? What are some of your social concerns?	
	Prom the example of Habakkuk, what should we do with our concerns? How do you behave when othe social concerns than you do?	r people have different spiritual or
6	What attributes of God allow you to remain faithful to Him when you are in a holding pattern in you	
	What disciplines of the Christian life do you struggle maintaining when you do not understand God or you?	what is going on with the world around
7	Has the coming of Christ since Habakkuk's time relieved the tensions Habakkuk expressed?	PRAYER REQUESTS
	What will ultimately relieve all the tensions of social and spiritual concern? What hope should Christians hold onto today?	
8	In Habakkuk's day, Jehoiakim was an evil king, and the Chaldeans were an evil people.	
	How should rulers affect the standards that prevail in a nation (Ps. 101:4-8, Prov. 25:5, Prov. 29:4, 12, 14; I Tim. 2:1-2; I Pet. 2:13-14)? How can we pray for local and global leaders?	