

- (1) I argued at the beginning of the sermon that unwarranted, unjustified, unexplained suffering, together with unanswered prayer, are typically the two primary reasons people struggle to embrace Christianity and to trust God and his goodness. Describe your own experience with these two realities. Can you think of any other reasons why you or people you know struggle to trust God?
- (2) Review in Habakkuk 3:16 the prophet's description of his response once he heard God's answer to his prayer. Why did he react this way? What was it about God's answer that provoked such violent physical and emotional manifestations? Have you ever experienced what Habakkuk did?
- (3) Habakkuk described the devastation that would occur once the Babylonians swept into the land of Judah. What are some of the crises we have faced or will face in the U.S. that might test our trust in God? How do you think you will react when you realize that God is all you have left?
- (4) Concentrate on the word "yet" in v. 18. How could Habakkuk maintain his joy in God in the face of such horrific circumstances? Can you say "yet" like he did, and mean it? If not, why not?
- (5) Habakkuk's reaction in both fear and faith was the result of his having heard God's voice in answer to his prayer. Have you ever heard God's voice like Habakkuk did? If so, describe it. If not, do you think this means you've never heard God speak? Why do we so easily dismiss the voice of God in Scripture, often relegating it to second place behind hearing God's audible voice?