

Study Questions March 27

You are tired.

You are lonely.

You want out.

You ask “How long Lord? How long will things be this way?”

Living How Long

Several years ago my husband began to experience health problems that were extreme and unexpected for a young man. For eighteen months we lived in *how long*. The toll it took on our lives was great. We walked in despair most days. Our uncertain future and painful present left our faith weak. Like David, we leaned on God and cried out for deliverance. There was not immediate deliverance but leaning on God’s strength in our time of weakness made the *how long* bearable while supernaturally growing our faith.

Are you living in the unbearable days of *how long*? The *how long* of unemployment, a prodigal child, a life-threatening diagnosis, or a lonely heart? When we are in *how long* God expects us to cry out to Him, casting all our cares and anxieties on Him. God may choose to immediately deliver you out or choose to deliver you through your *how long*. In either case you can be confident your deliverance will be perfectly timed, bringing you good and God glory.

Read 1 Peter 5:7.

Why should we cast our cares on God?

Knowing God cares enables us to withstand the sting of and endure our stay in *how long*. This assurance opens our eyes to see God work. As we see God work patience is produced, strengthening our belief in our deliverance.

Fight for Deliverance

Sometimes our stay in *how long* seems imminent and we become discouraged, losing all hope for deliverance. We can feel the enemy’s breath on our neck as he corners us in a place of desperation. It is when the enemy hovers over us that we must draw our sword (Ephesians 6:17) and fight for deliverance.

David was losing hope. He needed to know that God had not forgotten Him. In his desperate place of darkness, David asked God to look to him and shed light on his *how long*. In asking God to restore his hope, God supernaturally supplied the power and confidence in God.

In our *how long*, we can draw our sword, pray David’s prayer and receive the same supernatural power and confidence.

Read Isaiah 55:11.

What confidence belongs to those who pray God’s Word?
