

“JOB: Living By Faith No Matter What”

Greg Wendschlag Sept. 15, 2019

“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil...” Job 1:1

Proposition: Will a human being trust a sovereign, invisible God even when everything around him confutes that trust?

Question #1: Will people serve and love God only when they know there is something in it for themselves?

“Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job?”...”Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have You not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands...stretch out Your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face...stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face.” Job 1:6-2:10

Question #2: Is there an internal understanding that says, “If I am good God will bless me with good things? If I am bad God will punish me with pain and suffering?”

“What pleasure would it give the Almighty if you were righteous? What would He gain if your ways were blameless? Is it for your piety that He rebukes you? Is not your wickedness great? Are not your sins endless?” Job 22:3-5

Question #3: Does our suffering mean God is not pleased and has distanced Himself from us?

“But you have said in my hearing – I heard the very words – I am pure and without sin; I am clean and free from guilt. Yet God has found fault with me; He considers me His enemy.” Job 32:8-10

Truth #1: True faith in God exists because God is God.

“Then Job fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised...Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?” In all this Job did not sin in what he said.” Job 1:20-2:10

Truth #2: True faith in God remains unshaken in the midst of pain and suffering.

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” Job 19:25-27

Truth #3: True faith in God realizes He is never closer than when you are facing painful trials.

“Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, “Listen now, and I will question you, and you shall answer Me.” My ears had heard of You but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:3-6

Ultimate Truth: The cross of Jesus transforms pain and suffering from something to blame God for into a praiseworthy opportunity to grow in and share with Christ.

“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so somehow, to attain the resurrection from the dead.” Phil. 3:10-11

Bottom line: We may never discover a reason why we suffer pain and hardships. How we respond to pain and suffering is what reveals our faith in God.

“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed His steps; I have kept to His way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread. But He stands alone, and who can oppose Him? He does whatever He pleases.” Job 23:10-13