

3. The Ultimate Resource For Suffering

We know from the Gospel accounts that Jesus Christ is the only person who ever served God selflessly.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. Romans 5:10

Folks who are suffering and have no idea why, and, from what you can tell, it's not because of anything you did. You need, to see Jesus coming in your place, He is the ultimate Job, Jesus Christ, the ultimate innocent sufferer.

If we are able to accept suffering as coming from God and not find fault with God for doing it we are rejecting the lie of Satan that God can't be trusted and proving that we will love God no matter what.

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; Job 13:15

life coming apart at the seams?

Trusting in God's
goodness when
life seems to be
falling apart.



Studies from the life of Job.

Dan Wilvers- Part 1 August 21st, 2016

The Great "Why" Question of Suffering Job 1:8-22

(Reading by Hilary Anthony)

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." ¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. ¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ 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." ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. *This is God's Word*

When you suffer, it's so natural to ask the question *Why?*

We get some major advice from Job, about how to look upon suffering in this life.

1. Avoid Quick Easy Answers

"Have you seen my servant Job? There is none like him in all the earth; a man who fears God and shuns evil." vs. 8

The **religious person** says, "*Oh, the reason you're suffering is you're not living right. You need more faith.*"

The **secular person** says, "*The reason you're suffering is life is a crapshoot and there is no God.*"

2 Key points from the Story:

1. God is not actively desiring the suffering that goes into Job's life. Satan is.
2. God is in absolute control over Satan and Job.

Why does God allow this? *To prove that we can love God even when things go terribly wrong.*

What Job's story is tells us:

1. This is probably the way God works with us.
2. Job never finds out the why of his suffering.

What the Bible calls us to do is to serve God even though you will never know, just like Job never knew, the actual reasons for the suffering.

2. Embrace Living Without An Answer To The Why Question

The only way to be sure you're serving God for he himself alone, is to trust Him no matter what is thrown at you.

And that's not all. *We also celebrate in seasons of suffering* because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance, 4 which shapes our characters. Romans 5: 3,4

Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, *you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure* and teach you true patience as you endure. James 1:2-4

What are you being called to? You're being called to stay in a relationship with a God you can't control, and accept and embrace the mystery of not knowing why you're suffering,

So how do we walk this path?

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: Naked I came out of the womb, and naked I'm going to die. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. vs. 20-22

There are two things we have to see here.

1. Christianity is not stoicism. Its not resignation, it's not impassive. (Job grieved greatly.)

2. Suffering is always taking away some earthly thing of value and if you build your life on those things, then suffering will be greater than your trust of God. (Job did not blame God for his losses)

If you build your life on God, then what happens is suffering drives you to him,