

Good Grief — Is God Always Worthy of Our Worship?

Andy Deane · 3/3/2024 · Job 1

Christ followers normally think that if they live rightly, only good will come. Life teaches us that's not always true. Job reminds us that God's sovereign plans sometimes include difficulty for a greater purpose.

Who will suffer? Who will worship God?

Job 1:1-5, 1 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. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. 4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

- Everyone suffers throughout their lifetime, despite their morals, riches & even prayers.
- If this was all the Scripture we had, our answer to the second question would be, "those who are blessed will worship God".

Why do we suffer? Why do we worship God?

Job 1:6-12, 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan[b] also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." 8 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." 9 "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 now 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 power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

- At times, we suffer because of sin: ancient, others, & ours: Genesis 3
- At times, we suffer for our sanctification: Psalms 119:71
- At times, we suffer to show genuine faith: 1 Peter 1:6-7; Job 1:8
- At times, we suffer due to Satan (spiritual warfare): Job 1:6-12
- At all times, suffering is filtered through God's sovereignty: Job 1:12

How do we suffer? Deeply.

Job 1:13-19, 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 made off with them. 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 heavens 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 made off with them. 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!"

How do we respond? Grief. Who will worship?

Job 1:20-22, 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.

- It's important to grieve and not rush that process: Job 1:20
 - Physical: shock, denial, sleepless, escapism, addiction, trouble making decisions, hard to concentrate, pain.
 - Emotional: sadness, guilt, shame, regret, envy, apathy, suicidal thought, anger, anxiety, sometimes relief.
 - Spiritual: anger at God, despair at living, distance from God, purposelessness, doubting God.
- Suffering tempts us to run away from God, but we must run to Him: Job 1:20
- When you don't understand why, focus on what you do know to be true about God: Job 1:21
- You don't have to be glad you are suffering, but be grateful for God's sovereignty: Job 1:21
- Be honest with God about your pain without sin: Job 1:22
- Job loses everything and finds out God is enough. Job lived our greatest fears & found God would sustain him.
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