

Seven Truths from the Book of Job

by Doug Hamilton

- 1) Trials do happen to good people.
 - a. Job 1:1, “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.”
 - b. Matthew 5:45, “...for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.”
 - c. John 9:2, “And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”
 - d. We are encompassed with worldly beliefs in *karma* as the answer to circumstances. The Bible does not reflect this. Many times terrible situations happen to people who were walking with God. We should be careful to assume that bad things only happen to bad people.

- 2) Trials are always authorized by God.
 - a. Job 1:12, Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.
 - b. Job 2:6, So the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”
 - c. 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”
 - d. There is nothing that happens in a person’s life that God is not aware of. Your trial, no matter what it is, had to have God’s stamp of approval placed on it. He is the one in control, not the devil.

- 3) Trials can be intensified by others.
 - a. Mrs. Job demanded Job to “Curse God and die” (2:9).
 - b. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar spent days accusing Job of being evil.
 - c. Elihu was a little more understanding, but still assaulted Job’s integrity.
 - d. Sometimes the people closest to us hurt us when attempting to help us. They say or do things out of ignorance, causing further trauma to our life. If someone is suffering a trial, sometimes it is good to just sit, wait and be silent. Being a good listener might be the best thing to do.

- 4) Trials generate endurance.
 - a. Romans 3:3, “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance.”
 - b. James 1:2-3, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”
 - c. Trials produce endurance because they have the requirement of patience. Long-suffering only comes through suffering a trial. We learn in trials that we can do all things through Him Who strengthens us.

Seven Truths from the Book of Job

by Doug Hamilton

5) Trials passed glorify God.

- a. 1 Peter 1:6-7, “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”
- b. Job 13:15, “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him...”
- c. Trials ultimately are about refocusing on God and giving Him the glory. God allows these trials to be used as rungs in a ladder, drawing us closer to Him in the end.

6) Trials failed insult God.

- a. James 1:13-15, Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- b. It is easy to want to shift the blame when we fail tests. God did not authorize a trial in your life to cause you to curse Him, but to glorify in the power to sustain you in your moment of need. To blame Him for our failures to do so is an insult to the Father.

7) Trials passed yields blessing.

- a. James 5:11 Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.
- b. Job was blessed with twice as much in the end, including seven more sons and three daughters. He lived a long and prosperous life in the years to g was come.
- c. Sometimes it is not that obvious at the end of the trial whether or not blessings were generated from passing the test. We must always remember that the ultimate blessing for the people of endurance is not health, wealth, a big family, a large income or a long life. People of endurance in God are guaranteed eternal life which causes all blessings to pale in comparison.

The Book of Job provides a deep look into the topic of trials. We might not have it as bad as Job in this life, but at some point all of us will be going through them. The only way we can be prepared for the greatest of these is to have a clear understanding about them. Trials are not pleasurable, but they can be joyful with the right mindset.