



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 10:1-22

1 "I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

2 I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me.

3 Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the designs of the wicked?

4 Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees?

5 Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years,

6 that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin,

7 although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand?

8 Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether.

9 Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust?

10 Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

11 You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

12 You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.

13 Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

14 If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity.

15 If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction.

16 And were my head lifted up you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me.

17 You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me.


18 "Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me

19 and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave.

20 Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer

21 before I go—and I shall not return— to the land of darkness and deep shadow,

22 the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."



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DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 10:1-22

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Have you ever been in such a place of despair that you have questioned the goodness of God? I have. I vividly remember a time in my life shortly after my first child was born. Prior to his birth, I had a healthy pregnancy with no complications. Afterward, there were seemingly endless, sleepless nights, many tears, and lots of fear over the future, which resulted in postpartum depression. It was one of the most challenging times in my life. As I clung to God, I also pleaded with Him and had many questions.

Suffering lends itself to questions. We don't tend to question God when things are going smoothly, but the minute we are afflicted, we want answers. In Chapter 10, Job asks a series of questions, and in doing so, alludes to the fact that he knows who his Designer is (verse 3). Filled with emotion, Job calls on the Lord to remember (verse 9). Remember how weak I am, Lord? Oh, that we would all remember just how weak we are before the Lord. In the story of Job, I see a man who was created from dust (Genesis 2:7), who knows he is finite. I see a man who is weak and desperately needs the Lord.

Is it okay to bring your questions before the Lord? Even John the Baptist, whose purpose was to prepare the people for the coming Messiah, had questions. While in prison, he sent messengers to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another (Matthew 11:3)?" Friends, we serve a God who is big enough to handle any questions we ask him. We serve a God who sees our weaknesses and invites us to cast our cares on Him because he cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

Our culture sees strength as something to be honored, that we ought to boast about our accomplishments, and never share with others our weaknesses. However, this is not the way of our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:27-31). Oftentimes, I can find myself running at a pace for which I don't have the resources. I can easily get to a place of burnout if I am working in my own strength. In this season of my life, the Lord has been showing me just how weak I am. Though difficult to admit, the Lord has humbled me in this area. In the stillness of my spirit, in times of crying out and pleading with God to help me, I hear the Lord gently remind me that I am weak. This is where the Lord meets us, in our weakness. This is the place that He is able to use us, when we are desperately dependent upon Him and His strength to make it through the day.



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Questions:

1. Do you tend to press into your weaknesses or run from them? Ask the Lord to examine your heart (Psalm 139:23-24).
2. Do you feel like you have questions that are too big for the Lord? Have you tried crying out to Him in your weakness?
3. Take a few moments to read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. In what did Paul choose to boast?