



Eternal PERSPECTIVE

Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 13:1-28

1 "Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it.

2 What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you.

3 But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue my case with God.

4 As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are you all.

5 Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom!

6 Hear now my argument and listen to the pleadings of my lips.

7 Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for him?

8 Will you show partiality toward him? Will you plead the case for God?

9 Will it be well with you when he searches you out? Or can you deceive him, as one deceives a man?

10 He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality.

11 Will not his majesty terrify you, and the dread of him fall upon you?

12 Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.

13 "Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may.

14 Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand?

15 Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.

16 This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him.

17 Keep listening to my words, and let my declaration be in your ears.

18 Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right.

19 Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.

20 Only grant me two things, then I will not hide myself from your face:

21 withdraw your hand far from me, and let not dread of you terrify me.

22 Then call, and I will answer or let me speak, and you reply to me.

23 How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.

24 Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?



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25 Will you frighten a driven leaf and pursue dry chaff?

26 For you write bitter things against me and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

27 You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you set a limit for the soles of my feet.

28 Man wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 13:1-28

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One summer, when I was home from college, my brother, sister, and I got into a heated debate about a music theory concept (yes, we are huge music nerds.) They were both up against me, but I knew for sure that I was right. I was exasperated with them; I was the one studying music in college, they weren't. I finally said these words, "Who has more training?!" I was beyond frustrated because it seemed so obvious to me, why couldn't they see it? Now, I cringe as I write this story even 15 years later because when we looked it up, they were right, and I was wrong. They never let me live this down. Anytime there is a debate about something, one of them will say, "But who has more training?" just to poke fun at me.

I can't help but recall that story when I read chapter 13. Job's friends felt that the cause of his afflictions was obvious and that he "had less training" or was inferior to them and couldn't see it. Poor Job knows that he is in the right. He knows that they were speaking falsely and must try to combat that on top of all that he is suffering. How frustrating that must have been. What confidence Job must have had in the truth of God and the truth of his situation.

A 2020 study from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University found that among believers, of those that believe the Bible to be true, a staggering 46% reject absolute moral truth, that God's Word is where we find all truth. Most of the people in this group trust their feelings or what culture dictates over the Word of God and what He says to be true. The context of a situation might change whether something is right or wrong to them.

We as believers can and should have complete confidence that we know the truth, we know what's right and it is not dependent on circumstances or what other people think. In verse 15, Job says, "Though he slay me, I will hope in Him." Verse 18 says, "Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right." When facing immense suffering and when everyone around him insists he is wrong, Job is confident that he is in the right and confident that he can trust in God. He knows what God requires of him and is confident that he is "blameless and upright" (Job 1:1, 1:8) before the Lord.



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Questions:

1. Have you ever been falsely accused? How did you respond?
2. Have you ever demanded justice? Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. Does understanding that the thing that prompted your demand for justice was paid for at the cross, calm your demand? Why or why not?
3. When ridiculed, criticized, slandered, or falsely accused, how should knowing that in Christ, you have an advocate in heaven, change how you respond?