



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 22:1-30

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: **2** "Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. **3** Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless? **4** Is it for your fear of him that he reproves you and enters into judgment with you? **5** Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities. **6** For you have exacted pledges of your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing. **7** You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry. **8** The man with power possessed the land, and the favored man lived in it. **9** You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed. **10** Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden terror overwhelms you, **11** or darkness, so that you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you. **12** "Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are! **13** But you say, 'What does God know? Can he judge through the deep darkness? **14** Thick clouds veil him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the vault of heaven. **15** Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod? **16** They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away. **17** They said to God, 'Depart from us,' and 'What can the Almighty do to us?' **18** Yet he filled their houses with good things—but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. **19** The righteous see it and are glad; the innocent one mocks at them, **20** saying, 'Surely our adversaries are cut off, and what they left the fire has consumed.' **21** "Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. **22** Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. **23** If you return to the Almighty you will be built up; if you remove injustice far from your tents, **24** if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent-bed, **25** then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. **26** For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. **27** You will make your prayer to him, and he will hear you and you will pay your vows. **28** You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways. **29** For when they are humbled you say, 'It is because of pride'; but he saves the lowly. **30** He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."



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DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 22:1-30

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In this chapter, Job's friend basically attacks Job's character by first telling Job he thinks way too much of himself and that God doesn't need him nor does he get any pleasure from Job's life. Eliphaz then lays out a baseless string of things Job must have done to deserve God's punishment. Then, adding insult to injury, Eliphaz tells Job he needs to repent and turn to God so that God will give him peace and blessings.

We know from chapters 1 and 2 that none of these accusations have any truth in them. We also know that God was very pleased with Job's blamelessness. Although some of Eliphaz's theology was basically correct, he was mistakenly applying it in Job's case. God is complete and needs nothing from us; that is true, but He created us in His image (Genesis 1:26). He created woman so that man would not be alone (Genesis 2:20-25). He cares about our happiness.

Poor old Eliphaz knew there was a God, and we can assume he knew Him personally, but just like so many professing Christians of our day, he was very confused about what we are called to do with our lives and how God works in our lives. I am so grateful that God has been so gracious and patient with me. I can still remember when He showed me how we are all supposed to offer our lives as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), how we are not supposed to conform to the patterns of this world (Romans 12:2), and how we have all been saved by grace and not our works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

It is so easy to jump to the conclusion that we must do something to earn God's love, that someone must have a hidden sin in their life and that is why they are going through some great tragedy. Yes, we are called to live a life that is worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). There are always some kind of consequences for our sins, but when and what, we do not always know. We live in a fallen world that is full of false teachers and bad people. Sometimes the mess we are caught up in has nothing to do with a hidden sin, just like the mess Job was living through. In fact, we know from Scripture that trials often happen to bring about our sanctification (James 1:2-4) and God's glory (John 9:3).

We all too often forget that there is a spiritual battle going on all the time and it is not against flesh and blood that we are fighting but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). Job is a great reminder of this. God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:9).



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Regardless of what we are walking through, John tells us that we should take heart because Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33). Friends, I pray that when you go through difficulties your eyes will stay on the Lord, and you will remember that we must be careful that all we say and listen to are based in God's Word and not the wisdom of this world. Amen!

Questions:

1. Who do you usually get advice from? When you give advice, where does it come from?
2. Have you ever had a friend assume you have a hidden sin, or have you thought that about someone? How did it make you feel? Or do you need to go ask for forgiveness for thinking that way of your friend?
3. If you're going through a really hard time right now and need someone to just listen or point you to God's word, please reach out to your Journey Group, other biblical community, or email pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com.