



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 32:1-22

1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. **2** Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. **3** He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong. **4** Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. **5** And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger. **6** And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you. **7** I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' **8** But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. **9** It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right. **10** Therefore I say, 'Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.' **11** "Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your wise sayings, while you searched out what to say. **12** I gave you my attention, and, behold, there was none among you who refuted Job or who answered his words. **13** Beware lest you say, 'We have found wisdom; God may vanquish him, not a man.' **14** He has not directed his words against me, and I will not answer him with your speeches. **15** "They are dismayed; they answer no more; they have not a word to say. **16** And shall I wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there, and answer no more? **17** I also will answer with my share; I also will declare my opinion. **18** For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me. **19** Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst. **20** I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer. **21** I will not show partiality to any man or use flattery toward any person. **22** For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 32:1-22

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My grandson is full of answers; for an almost three-year-old, he sure knows a lot of stuff! Almost any question I ask, he will say he knows how to do it; which is often funny, as he may have never seen the toy or done the activity before. He has recently found a love of fishing and goes often with his aunts and uncles. He will tell you all about catching fish, turtles and sharks in our pond! He will even tell you how to use the fishing pole and all the details on how you should fish, though all he has is a pole with a bobber on the end and no hook. He gets credit for catching fish when someone else catches them. He has yet to learn that he doesn't have all the answers, that he still has plenty to learn and won't be able to solve all the world's problems.

Elihu was similar. He was a young man who entered a conversation and had all the answers. He burned with anger at their lack of answers and was bursting to share the truth he knew. Elihu did say he waited on his elders before speaking, as would be proper, though he states he will share his opinion. Our opinions can be misleading and dangerous and we must be careful. The one thing Elihu says that we **MUST** take to heart is in verse 8, in which he says the spirit of the Almighty in us is what brings wisdom. What do we do with Elihu and his anger, his belief in his opinion being the right one? The greatest lesson we can learn is that God is the giver of knowledge and wisdom! Before we speak, no matter how justified we think we are, we should seek the Lord and His wisdom. We must read Scripture, pray, and seek the truth of God and not our opinions. The author of Psalm 119:15-16 says that they will meditate on God's word and think about it. We must do the same. We must be slow to anger and slow to speak, as James 1:19-20 says. Don't assume you have all the answers. Don't be quick to correct others until you have searched scripture and sought the wisdom of God, for that is the only wisdom you need; and remember that often godly wisdom is contrary to worldly wisdom.

Questions:

1. Are you quick to speak and share your opinions? Why do you think you do that?
2. How often do you seek Scripture before you advise others or make decisions?
3. In what ways can you make sure you are following God's wisdom and not your own?