



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 36:1-33

1 And Elihu continued, and said: **2** "Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for I have yet something to say on God's behalf. **3** I will get my knowledge from afar and ascribe righteousness to my Maker. **4** For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you. **5** "Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding. **6** He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right. **7** He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne he sets them forever, and they are exalted. **8** And if they are bound in chains and caught in the cords of affliction, **9** then he declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly. **10** He opens their ears to instruction and commands that they return from iniquity. **11** If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. **12** But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge. **13** "The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them. **14** They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes. **15** He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity. **16** He also allured you out of distress into a broad place where there was no cramping, and what was set on your table was full of fatness. **17** "But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; judgment and justice seize you. **18** Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing, and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside. **19** Will your cry for help avail to keep you from distress, or all the force of your strength? **20** Do not long for the night, when peoples vanish in their place. **21** Take care; do not turn to iniquity, for this you have chosen rather than affliction. **22** Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? **23** Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'? **24** "Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. **25** All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar. **26** Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable. **27** For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, **28** which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly. **29** Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion? **30** Behold, he scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea. **31** For by these he judges peoples; he gives food in abundance. **32** He covers his hands with the



lightning and commands it to strike the mark. **33** Its crashing declares his presence; the cattle also declare that he rises.

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 36:1-33

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Elihu spoke with directness and authority and claimed to speak "on God's behalf" (verse 2) to point Job's need to repent of his sin so that the Lord would relent on his judgment. Remember, in chapters 1 and 2 the Lord states that "Job is a blameless, upright man who fears the Lord and shuns evil" (Job 1:1, 2:3). No one knows God's thoughts and reasons for suffering except for God. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). It is easy for us to think we have all the answers. In reality, only God knows exactly why events unfold as they do, and we must submit to him as our Sovereign Lord.

Our lives are designed to point others to the gospel and what God has done, is doing, or is going to do in our lives. We are not meant to live in defeat and constant sorrow as trials come our way but are instructed to give thanks to him in all things. This means the hurt, the pain, and the unknown. In our flesh this is impossible, but with God, you can stand in peace, confidence, courage, and restoration.

As a child I wondered many times why my mom had to die, why I experienced abuse, and why I struggled to make friends. I felt alone, but God was there the whole time, grieving the pain the world inflicted and waiting to use all the heartache to orchestrate a beautiful testimony. You see, I would not be the woman I am today without the pain of my past. God has comforted me and brought a confidence to my life I didn't have before Christ. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). My faith was tested. I had a choice to stay in my resentment, pain, and suffering, or to surrender and trust God in all things. I can now stand before you and say I am thankful for the trials. Because of Christ, I can connect to others who are suffering and point them to redemption in him. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

Instead of trying to figure out the why and justify the pain like Job's friends were doing, we are reminded in Scripture that we will experience suffering on this side of heaven, but we are instructed to lift up our voices with praise, prayer and thanksgiving. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9).



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Questions:

1. Do you struggle to rest in trusting God's will? Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Pray for the Lord to reveal the area of struggle and surrender it to Him.
2. Do you know God wants to hear from you in times of trial, and that he has a good plan for you? Read Jeremiah 29:11-14.
3. Re:generation Ministry is a place to find healing in a life of surrender to Christ. It takes place every Monday night at 7pm on our Wills Point Campus. Come and see. Worship and large group teaching are available.