

**Life is Hard—
but God is good.**

Job 1-2; Romans 5:3-5

The mystery of pain, the character of faith, and the goodness of God in the midst of suffering.

If God is all-loving and God is all-powerful, why do so many innocent people suffer?

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33**

Job was a very good man.

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Job 1:1

*His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **Job 1:4***

When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

Job 1:5

Lessons from Job's Experience

1. Bad things are going to happen to good people.

Suffering often offends our sense of justice.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:15

Life is not fair. Pain is not distributed in direct proportion to the amount of sin in a person's life.

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Job 1:6-7a

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Job 1:7b

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 1:8

*"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. **Job 1:9***

“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

Job 1:10-11

The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

*Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. **Job 1:12***

Some of the painful experiences we have happen to us as the result of satanic attacks.

2. Nothing will touch you that God does not allow.

Lessons from Job’s experience.

“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit. He'll always be there to help you come through it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13, 19

Why does God permit any struggle?

Why doesn't He make all of our lives smooth and easy?

Sometimes God permits us to go through suffering to mature us.

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us,
Romans 5:3-5a

Sometimes God lets us go through pain so that we can comfort other people.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Sometimes God permits us to suffer in order to test us.

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has

stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.
James 1:12

God knows whether or not our faith is genuine.

The test proves to other people and to ourselves that our faith is real.

Sometimes God permits suffering so that we appreciate the suffering of Jesus.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11

One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest

brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:13-15

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:16

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the

sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” **Job 1:17**

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” **Job 1:18-19**

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. **Job 1:20-22**

**Job mourned and grieved
before he worshiped.
Job didn't pretend or act as if
nothing had happened.**

**There needs to be honest
grieving and mourning.
Pain hurts even when we have
faith in God.**

**3. A key to enduring pain is to
worship.**

Lessons from Job's experience.

Faith is:

1. Holding on when you don't understand.
2. Worshiping when you don't feel like it.
3. Holding your tongue when you're angry.
4. Trusting God will make things right one day.

You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 16:67-68

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?

There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

Job 2:3

"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 2:4-5

*The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." **Job 2:6***

*So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. **Job 2:7-8***

*His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" **Job 2:9***

*He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. **Job 2:10***

4. Others have overcome adversity; we can, too.

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; **Job 13:15**

Reasons why God allows suffering

5. Suffering here keeps our focus on heaven

God leads us, like an eagle teaches to fly.

like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.

Deuteronomy 32:11

God stirs up our nest here, to remind us there comes the time we need to get out of here.

This world is not your home. He wants you to fly to eternity to be with Him.

We think the worst thing that can happen to us is to go through pain.

**But the worst thing that can
happen to us is to never know
Jesus Christ.**