

# “God’s Waiting Room”

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. **Job 19:25***

*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***

***Deep wounds take a long time to heal.***

*I summon my servant, but he does not answer, though I beg him with my own mouth. **Job 19:16***

*I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped with only the skin of my teeth. **Job 19:20***

*My skin grows black and peels; my body burns with fever. **Job 30:20***

*Even the little boys scorn me; when I appear, they ridicule me.*

**Job 19:18**

*“Yet if I speak, my pain is not relieved; and if I refrain, it does not go away. **Job 16:6***

*The churning inside me never stops; days of suffering confront me. **Job 30:27***

*Night pierces my bones; my gnawing pains never rest.*

**Job 30:17**

*My breath is offensive to my wife; I am loathsome to my own brothers.*

**Job 19:17**

***The most severe test of life is usually not the immediate crisis, but the prolonged pain that follows.***

### **“God’s Waiting Room”**

*Three lessons encouraging us to be faithful when enduring prolonged suffering.*

*When Job’s three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.*

**Job 2:11**

***The most important thing that you can do when you have a friend who is hurting is to make contact with them.***

*When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was. **Job 2:12-13***

*After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said: “May the day of my birth perish, and the night it was said, ‘A boy is born!’ That day—may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine upon it. **Job 3:1-4***

*“Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?  
**Job 3:11***

*I have no peace, no quietness, I have no rest, only turmoil.*

**Job 3:26**

*But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed. Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope?*

**Job 4:5-6**

*As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.*

**Job 4:8-9**

*“Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.*

**Job 5:17**

*“If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be*

*placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas— no wonder my words have been impetuous. **Job 6:2-3***

*so that I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine. I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning. **Job 7:15-16***

*“How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind. Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.*

**Job 8:2-4**

*When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he goes by, I cannot perceive him. **Job 9:11***

*“Are all these words to go unanswered? Is this talker to be vindicated? Will your idle talk reduce men to silence? Will no one rebuke you when you mock? You say to God, ‘My beliefs are flawless and I am pure in your sight.’ **Job 11:2-4***

*Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin. **Job 11:5-6***

*Then Job replied: “Doubtless you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! **Job 12:1-2***

*But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things?*

## **Job 12:3**

*You, however, smear me with lies; you are worthless physicians, all of you! If only you would be altogether silent! For you, that would be wisdom. **Job 13:4-5***

**1. Most friends will not continue to sympathize with you—Be tolerant anyways.** *Three lessons encouraging us to be faithful when enduring prolonged suffering.*

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

**Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)**

*For each one shall bear his own load. **Galatians 6:5 (NKJV)***

**2. God may seem to be silent and very distant to you— Trust Him anyway.**

*Three lessons encouraging us to be*

*faithful when enduring prolonged suffering.*

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

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. **Job 19:25***

*“Though I cry, ‘I’ve been wronged!’ I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice. **Job 19:7***

*If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. **Job 23:3-4***

*“But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no*

*glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. **Job 23:8-10***

***One of the most difficult tests of faith, is to wait for God.***

*The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. **Deuteronomy 28:23***

***How do you react when life falls apart, pain is prolonged, and there's no sign that God hears your prayer?***

***You must rely on God's promises and not your feelings.***

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him*

*from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Psalm 34:18-20*

***The fact that God seems distant probably has nothing to do with God, maybe nothing to do with your sin, but everything to do with your feelings.***

*The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8*

**3. You will probably struggle with bitterness—Be faithful anyway.**

*Three lessons encouraging us to be faithful when enduring prolonged suffering.*

*Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. **Job 7:7***

*My spirit is broken, my days are cut short, the grave awaits me. **Job 17:1***

*“Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. **Job 7:11***

*“As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, **Job 27:2***

**Job even has thoughts of suicide.**

*“Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for, that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut me off! **Job 6:8-9***

***Satan would love to plant thoughts of self-destruction in your mind.***

***Suicide is never the right solution. That's never God's will. That's never a shortcut to peace.***

**God can even use the pain in our lives for His good purpose when we trust Him.**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**Romans 8:28**

*As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

**James 5:11**

***God understands and even expects us to battle doubt and despair when life falls apart.***

**Four things we can do to avoid bitterness and respond to adversity with faithfulness.**

1. Accept your experience as a test from God instead of demanding all the answers.

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

*“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will but as you will.”* **Matthew 26:39**

2. Repeat the spiritual disciplines, even though they may seem perfunctory at times.

3. Be realistic. You may be in for the long haul.

“You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.” — Jim Stockdale

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

4. Remember that God promises to reward those who have endured suffering.

*Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Hebrews 10:32*

*you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

**Hebrews 10:34b-35**

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

**Isaiah 40:31**

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