



PART FOUR: SURVIVING THE STORM OF LOSS

Job said: "You snatch me up and drive me before the wind; you toss me about in the storm." Job 30:22

JOB'S RESPONSE TO THE STORM:

Job said: "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to His face." Job 13:15

WHAT GOD SAYS TO US IN THE STORM:

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me." Job 38:1-3

1. LET ME BE _____.

God: "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me." Job 41:11

God is not obligated to _____ himself to us.

The LORD said to Job: "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?" Job 40:1,2

Ultimately, _____ is better than _____

Job said, "The Lord gives, and now He has taken away. May His name be praised!" Job 1:21 (TEV)

What you can praise God for:

- That He is a good & loving God Job 10:12
- That He is all-powerful Job 37:5,23
- That He notices every detail of life Job 23:10, 31:4
- That He is in ultimate control Job 41:11
- That He will ultimately save me Job 19:25,26

Ask yourself: Am I worshipping the _____ or the _____?

Job said: "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" Job 2:10

2. YOU CAN'T ALWAYS FIX _____.

Pain and difficulty are a reality, but are not always the result of _____ or lack of _____

The LORD... said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." Job 42:7

What did they say that wasn't right?

Bildad: "When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty their sin." Job 8:3

Zophar: "If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent... Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning." Job 11:14,17

3. I HAVE _____ IN STORE FOR YOU

Job said: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes— myself, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" Job 19:25-27

After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before... The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. Job 42:10,12

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Cor. 4:17

4. _____ ME

Trust is a _____ I make.

Job: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Job 13:15a (KJV)

Daily Meditations

Thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth."

Job 19:25

Monday

Read Job 1:9-11. What do you think is the answer to the question posed by Satan to God in the Book of Job: Is it possible to love God for God's sake, and not merely for the benefits?

Describe an experience when you were tempted to doubt God's goodness: What questions did you ask? How were they similar to or different from Job's?

Bring your questions to God today. Thank Him for His power!

Tuesday

Each of Job's three friends makes a speech with Job responding-- a cycle that gets repeated three times in the book. Only problem: His friends give terrible advice! Read Job 22.

Stupid –but familiar– answers from Job's friends:

- **This happened because you sinned**

"Who, being innocent, has ever perished?" (Eliphaz) Job 4:7

- **If you just have faith, you'll be healed**

"If you look to God and plead... and are pure & upright, he'll restore you." Job 8:6

- **This is just a lesson**

"Blessed is the man God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty." (Eliphaz) Job 5:17

- **If you live right, you'll be prosperous**

"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you." (Eliphaz) Job 22:21

- **If you just read the Bible, you'll be fine**

"Are God's consolations not enough for you?" (Eliphaz) Job 15:11

God condemns Job's friends later for speaking "falsehoods". How is their advice false?

Read Job 42:11 for a good example of how to comfort! What do you learn from these three people about how to be-- and *not* to be-- a friend to someone in pain?

Ask God to help you see the needs of your friends-- and wise ways to meet those needs.

Wednesday

Read Job 7:7-21. Job's friends talk *about* God; Job talks *to* God. In a few words, summarize matters Job raises with God.

Which complaints can you personally identify with?

Read Job 9:32. Job never asks to be cured. Describe what it is he wants from God:

In what ways has Jesus Christ made Job's deepest dream a reality?

In tragedy, what difference does it make to know that God has come in the flesh?

Thank God that He understands your current struggle because He has been here!

Thursday

Read Job 21:1-16. How does Job's reality check contrast with Zophar's view (20:29)?

What's made it tough for you to believe there's a good God running the world?

If you could speak directly with God, what unanswered questions would you ask?

Job's friends are convinced they have all the answers. Job only has questions, which he never gets answers for. How do you feel about living with unanswered questions?

Bring to the Lord your unanswered questions. Ask Him for perspective and the wisdom to know how to live with these tensions.

Friday

Read Job 38:1-11; 31-41; 40:1-5. In these chapters, God speaks to Job. What common theme do all of God's questions have?

Job's friends said, in effect, you *must* repent. God takes a different approach. He gives Job a direct answer to his questions. Instead, how does Job gain perspective?

Why is perspective often better than answers, in the long run, in dealing with life's disappointments and pain?

What dimension does Job 19:25-27 add to this perspective?

Ask God to help you live in worship and reverence of Him, with a healthy sense of the joy and brevity of life, and the certainty of life with God forever!

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray the services this weekend. Thanks!

Many questions this week adapted from *Job: Wrestling with God* by Paul Stevens