

Spiritual Growth Questions for August 15, 2021

Opener: What has God been teaching you this week?

- I. **Read Job 3:1-3.** Why would he wish he had never been born in the first place? From Job's perspective, God is (inexplicably) angry with him and is treating him like a sinner. What does it say about how Job values God that, suffering under what appears to be God's disapproval, he wishes he had never lived at all?
Have you experienced pain and suffering that made you despair of life?
- II. **Read Job 3:4-10.** What do you notice about Job's use of light and darkness? How is this different than Genesis 1:3 "Let there be light?" The "Leviathan" mentioned in verse 8 would have been familiar to ancient Israelites, even though he is strange to us. In light of other references to Leviathan (e.g., Job 41:1), it appears that this creature is perhaps a symbol for supernatural evil that resists God's rule and seeks to destroy and overwhelm the good order God has founded in creation. But why does Job refer to Leviathan? What does he hope Leviathan will do? How does this verse express the depth of Job's pain and despair?
When have you grown spiritually through a painful experience?
- III. **Read Job 3:11-26.** As you read it, what kind of spiritual warfare do you think Job is experiencing? What do you think he means in 3:25 "for the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me?" Discuss the power of fear vs. the power of faith. **Meditate on 2 Timothy 1:7. Why do you think you sometimes learn more about yourself and God in times of pain than comfort?**
- IV. **What is the prayer you believe God has not answered yet? Besides physical deliverance, what do you think he might want you to gain from the experience?**

Read the following scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18. Apply the S.O.A.P. study method.

Scripture: Read the passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

Why? Answering Life's Toughest Questions: A study of the book of Job Pouring Out Our Hearts Before God August 15, 2021 Pastor John Lloyd

Why? It's a question that is at the heart of every person who undergoes serious trials. Why suffering? Why evil? Why pain? Why injustice? Why false accusations? Why? What is God's purpose? I know I have asked these questions throughout my life. I am sure that you have as well. Today, we will continue our study of the book of Job. Job is part of the wisdom books of the Bible. It is my prayer that each of us could gain both wisdom and gain eternal perspective to help us with our lives and trials that we face. Today, we will encounter Job after he has lost everything. He is processing his pain and misery. He is grieving deeply. It is our hope that we can learn how to process our pain and grief. Pouring our hearts to God is definitely a great place to start and an even better place to finish.

Job 3:1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job said: 3 "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'" 4 Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. 5 Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. 6 That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months. 7 Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it. 8 Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan. 9 Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning, 10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes. 11 "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? 12 Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? 13 For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, 14 with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, 15 or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. 16 Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light? 17 There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. 18 There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. 19 The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master. 20 "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, 21 who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, 22 who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave? 23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? 24 For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. 25 For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. 26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

Psalm 62:8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

I. Severe losses may make us feel _____.

Job 3:23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

The word “hedged” means to enclose or surround completely as with a fence or a wall.

Do not underestimate the severity of the emotional pain that some people experience. The severity of the pain is usually not understood by those who haven’t experienced it. Layton Talbert

Job 3:3 “Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived.’ 4 Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. 5 Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. 6 That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months. 7 Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus helps those who feel hedged in by trials!

II. Ask God the _____ questions?

Why did I live?

Job 3:11 “Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?”

Job is a realistic example of grieving by one of the godliest men in Old Testament history. This is what grief looks like, sometimes even for spiritually mature saints, because even spiritually mature saints are human. Andersen

Why can’t I just die?

Job 3:20 “Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, 21 who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, 22 who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?”

Profound suffering can mar and disfigure our sense of God’s love, favor, and protection—but those gifts are real nonetheless. Eric Ortlund

Why do I have to live in this misery?

Job 3:20 “Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,

Psalm 13:1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Bring your why questions to Jesus and remember his suffering for you!

III. Keep right on _____ to God.

Job 3:24 For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. 25 For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. 26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

Even in Job’s darkest hour he never stops viewing God as the answer to his problems. He does curse his own life, but he never curses God, nor does he take his own fate into his hands. He does mourn the loss of the favor of God, but at least he continues to talk. People that stop talking to God because of their pain are in serious trouble. Talbert Beyond Suffering: Discovering the Message of Job

2 Corinthians 3:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. James 5:11

Romans 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 62:8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us!