

Title: Suffering
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Suffering:

Losing something that you previously had and experiencing the consequence of being without it.

Loss:

Being deprived of something that brings a lack to you.

Loss of:

- loved ones
- health
- broken relationship
- loss/ lack of finance
- ability
- dignity
- desire to live

Why do these things happen?

- Is God good?
- Is God alive?
- Is God in control?
- Does God care?

1. Testing:

Job 1:1-12

¹There was a man named Job, living in the land of Uz, who worshiped God and was faithful to him. He was a good man, careful not to do anything evil. ²He had seven sons and three daughters, ³and owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, one thousand head of cattle, and five hundred donkeys. He also had a large number of servants and was the richest man in the East. ⁴Job's sons used to take turns giving a feast, to which all the others would come, and they always invited their three sisters to join them. ⁵The morning after each feast, Job would get up early and offer sacrifices for each of his children in order to purify them. He always did this because he thought that one of them might have sinned by insulting God unintentionally. ⁶When the day came for the heavenly beings to appear before the LORD, Satan was there among them. ⁷The LORD asked him, "What have you been doing?" Satan answered, "I have been walking here and there, roaming around the earth." ⁸"Did you notice my servant Job?" the LORD asked. "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil." ⁹Satan replied, "Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it? ¹⁰You have always protected him and his family and everything he owns. You bless everything he does, and you have given him enough cattle to fill the whole country. ¹¹But now suppose you take away everything he has---he will curse you to your face!" ¹²"All right," the LORD said to Satan, "everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself." So Satan left.

Job 2:4-8

⁴Satan replied, "A person will give up everything in order to stay alive. ⁵But now suppose you hurt his body---he will curse you to your face!" ⁶So the LORD said to Satan, "All right, he is in your power, but you are not to kill him." ⁷Then Satan left the LORD's presence and made sores break out all over Job's body. ⁸Job went and sat by the garbage dump and took a piece of broken pottery to scrape his sores.

Job – the ultimate man of suffering.

Loss of:

- loved ones
- finances
- health
- dignity
- ability
- desire to live

2. Consequence of sin:**II Samuel 12:9-19**

⁹Why, then, have you disobeyed my commands? Why did you do this evil thing? You had Uriah killed in battle; you let the Ammonites kill him, and then you took his wife! ¹⁰Now, in every generation some of your descendants will die a violent death because you have disobeyed me and have taken Uriah's wife. ¹¹I swear to you that I will cause someone from your own family to bring trouble on you. You will see it when I take your wives from you and give them to another man; and he will have intercourse with them in broad daylight. ¹²You sinned in secret, but I will make this happen in broad daylight for all Israel to see." ¹³"I have sinned against the LORD," David said. Nathan replied, "The LORD forgives you; you will not die. ¹⁴But because you have shown such contempt for the LORD in doing this, your child will die." ¹⁵Then Nathan went home. The LORD caused the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David to become very sick. ¹⁶David prayed to God that the child would get well. He refused to eat anything, and every night he went into his room and spent the night lying on the floor. ¹⁷His court officials went to him and tried to make him get up, but he refused and would not eat anything with them. ¹⁶David prayed to God that the child would get well. He refused to eat anything, and every night he went into his room and spent the night lying on the floor. ¹⁷His court officials went to him and tried to make him get up, but he refused and would not eat anything with them. ¹⁸A week later the child died, and David's officials were afraid to tell him the news. They said, "While the child was living, David wouldn't answer us when we spoke to him. How can we tell him that his child is dead? He might do himself some harm!" ¹⁹When David noticed them whispering to each other, he realized that the child had died. So he asked them, "Is the child dead?" "Yes, he is," they answered.

3. Suffering for a purpose:**Overcome suffering**

- Don't run away from pain.

Psalm 46:10

"Stop fighting," he says, "and know that I am God, supreme among the nations, supreme over the world."

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God is with you; his power gives you victory. The LORD will take delight in you, and in his love he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you,

- Don't look for comfort from people.
- You need support from people.

Proverbs 25:17

Don't visit your neighbors too often; they may get tired of you and come to hate you.

- Do not deny your pain.
DANGER: explosion about to happen!
- Don't join a pity party.

Psalm 42:5

Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise him, my savior and my God.

- **Reach out and be a blessing to others.**

Job 42:10-11

¹⁰Then, after Job had prayed for his three friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had had before. ¹¹All Job's brothers and sisters and former friends came to visit him and feasted with him in his house. They expressed their sympathy and comforted him for all the troubles the LORD had brought on him. Each of them gave him some money and a gold ring.

- **Make a definite choice.**

Job 2:9

His wife said to him, "You are still as faithful as ever, aren't you? Why don't you curse God and die?"

Daniel 3:14-18

¹⁴He said to them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you refuse to worship my god and to bow down to the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵Now then, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, oboes, lyres, zithers, harps, and all the other instruments, bow down and worship the statue. If you do not, you will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Do you think there is any god who can save you?" ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, "Your Majesty, we will not try to defend ourselves. ¹⁷If the God whom we serve is able to save us from the blazing furnace and from your power, then he will. ¹⁸But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty may be sure that we will not worship your god, and we will not bow down to the gold statue that you have set up."

- **Gain from suffering.**

Job 42:1-6

¹Then Job answered the LORD. ²I know, LORD, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. ³You ask how I dare question your wisdom when I am so very ignorant. I talked about things I did not understand, about marvels too great for me to know ⁴You told me to listen while you spoke and to try to answer your questions. ⁵In the past I knew only what others had told me, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. ⁶So I am ashamed of all I have said and repent in dust and ashes.

- **Go to the Word of God.**

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.

Job 42:12-17

¹²The LORD blessed the last part of Job's life even more than he had blessed the first. Job owned fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, two thousand head of cattle, and one thousand donkeys. ¹³He was the father of seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He called the oldest daughter Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the youngest Keren Happuch. ¹⁵There were no other women in the whole world as beautiful as Job's daughters. Their father gave them a share of the inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶Job lived a hundred and forty years after this, long enough to see his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ¹⁷And then he died at a very great age.