



## Job

One of the biggest barriers in our spiritual journey is how we deal with pain and suffering. Every one of us experience it, feel it and wish it was not there! Often times, we mask what is going on inside of us and put up a good “veneer” to everyone who sees us. This can have monumental side-effects in our relationship to God.

The Old Testament book of Job is incredible example for us of how to handle and deal with our suffering in a way that draws us closer to a God who is in control, who made everything, who delights in creation and can be trusted! This book addresses the reality of suffering in life, but most of all, it gives us a window into the heart and character of God.

### 1. Setting the Scene (Job 1:1-11)

Lower stage - [Earthly](#) activity (vs. 1-5)

Upper stage - [Heavenly](#) activity (vs. 6-11)

### 2. The Drama Unfolds (Job 1:12-2:13)

First Response:

“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)

Second Response:

“...shall we accept good from God, and not trouble? In all this, Job did not sin **in what he said**” (Job 2:10)

“When three of Job’s friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to **comfort and console** him.” (Job 2:11)

“Nud” - to [rock](#) with someone in [anguish](#)

### 3. The Characters Speak (Job 3 - 42:6)

— [Job](#) :

“After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 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 not care about it; may no light shine upon it... May those who curse days curse that day.” (Job 3:1-4,8)

— [Eliphaz](#) : The [innocent](#) don’t perish and the [upright](#) are not destroyed.

“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.” (Job 4:7)

— [Bildad](#) : Job’s [children](#) died because of their sin.

“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 8:3-4)

— [Zophar](#) : Job’s suffering is the result of his [personal](#) sin.

“If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then you’ll lift up your face without shame; you’ll stand firm and without fear.” (Job 11:14)

— [Job](#) :

“If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. I would lay out my case and present my arguments.” (Job 23:2-4)

It’s [OK](#) to question [God](#)!

— [God](#) :

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm...” (Job 38:1)

— [Job](#) :

“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” (Job 42:5)

### 3. The Epilogue (Job 42:7-17)

Our God is...

...endlessly [good](#) and uncontrollably [generous](#) and irrationally [loving](#).

Pastor Reg Genter—January 16 & 17, 2010

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