

Let God Be God  
The Pressure of Pain  
Job 2:1-13

We tend to think of pain as a curse, not a blessing, and that is understandable. Pain hurts. Pain brings pressure to bear on our bodies, minds, emotions, and spirits. But God sometimes has a purpose in our pain that we cannot see. He is always present in our pain, even when we can't sense Him there.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ makes all the difference in suffering.

“When we are put to the test, God is involved in our suffering.

Our affliction is never \_\_\_\_\_; it always has something to do  
with God's eternal \_\_\_\_\_.” – Ray Stedman

2. \_\_\_\_\_ God is Satan's goal in suffering.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God is God's goal in suffering.

Even though God permits us to suffer he doesn't delight in our suffering. Satan takes pleasure in our pain. If Satan had his way, we would all suffer and perish. But God guards us and keeps us. He will test the limits of our faith, but He will do so only to strengthen our faith and stretch those limits. Job teaches us that we are stronger in God than we ever imagined, and His life and power are strong in us. Job teaches us to lean on God when the pressure of pain comes.

Reflection

Read Job 1 and 2. What do these chapters teach us about Satan's persistence? What do they teach us about Job's trust in God? How do we prepare our hearts for Satan's attacks? Do you think it is true that every man has his price? Is there something in your world, that if taken away, would cause you to rebuke God or question your faith in Him? While Job loved his family, he did not idolize them. While Job, enjoyed his riches, he did not idolize them. While Job felt good about his health, he did not idolize it. And neither should we idolize any of these things.