

Let God Be God
Is It Better to Die? (Part 2)
Job 3-7

There are plenty of stories throughout history of wealthy men and women who have been suddenly stripped of all their worldly goods. This happened to many people during the stock market slide that precipitated the Great Depression. It happens to celebrities and stars and to other people in the public eye, constantly. And it happens time and again in a world where natural disasters can wipe out nearly everything in the blink of an eye.

1. It is easier to speak to the suffering of others than to our own.
2. We assume others suffer because of sin, while we suffer because of Satan.
3. We need to make sure that a word from the Lord is actually a word from the Lord.
4. To think we are worthless sinners is a lie meant to destroy us.

5. Hidden sin will destroy, but not all _____ comes from hidden sin.

6. Godly people are not _____ from trouble.

Application

We too often _____, rather than just _____.

When life's suffering seems _____, we must cry out to God.

Our suffering is woven into this vast eternal purpose of God, which He has accomplished through our Lord Jesus. When we are afflicted, God provides a demonstration before all of the heavenly powers and before each of us that God's judgment is just, His ways are perfect, and He knows what He is doing. Suffering, in fact, is sometimes the result of righteousness and of God's eternal plan for our lives.

Reflection

Review Eliphaz's rebuke in Job 4-5. Why do you think he was so quick to become bitter toward Job? How might Eliphaz presented the same argument in a gentler manner? Is it possible to offer rebuke in a kind way? Eliphaz seems to base his argument on his own personal observations of life. What do you think might be dangerous about making arguments based solely on observations? How is God often left out of that type of argument? How should the limitations of what we see and are able to know form our opinions and advice? What does chapter 6 reveal about the role of sympathy in God's economy? How might we improve on the way we show sympathy towards those who on the surface are struggling?