

Let God Be God
Low Points
Job 17-19

We all know what it is like to live life in the peaks and valleys. Our circumstances are cyclical in that sometimes things go well and other times it seems everyone and everything is against us. The brokenness of our world not only makes life difficult to navigate but can also leave us painfully scarred. Life happens to everyone. Even followers of Jesus hit low points.

1. Life can leave us _____ and _____.

2. Words can leave us _____ and _____.

3. Our _____ is certain; our _____ lives.

One of the central themes of Job is that life is a mystery. We would love to reduce this life to a few simple principles (do good and you'll be blessed; do evil and you'll be punished). Life doesn't work that way. Life is complicated, not simple. The ways of God are beyond us, but we trust that God is working out His eternal purposes for us in a way that is consistent with His unchanging love.

Reflection

The Christian believer has a heavenly Advocate in Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:1-2). How does Jesus help us when we are tempted and tested? (See Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16.) What happens when we fail (1 John 1:5-2:2)? How can we speak words of encouragement to our friends who are suffering in pain or in grief without causing more harm? How should we approach the concept of "tough love" when a person is suffering as a direct result of their choices and actions? How do we balance tough love with mercy when a person has hit what appears to be a low point in his life? How should the hope of a resurrected Redeemer impact our conversations with people who are dealing with difficult life circumstances?