

WHO DARES TO QUESTION THE LORD?

THE ANSWER WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR SERIES – PART 1

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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God always answers prayers. He responds in four (4) categories: 1. YES (1 John 5:14), 2. WAIT/NOT YET/LATER (John 11; Ecclesiastes 3:11), 3. NO (James 4:3); and 4. NOT MY WAY (Isaiah 55:9). Unfortunately, some professed Christians have abandoned their faith because they did not get the answer they wanted or expected. When our situation takes a turn for the worse, we challenge and question God, "Why me? Why am I suffering like this?" This happened to Job, an upright and wealthy man who feared God and avoided evil. God allowed him to be tried by Satan, undergo misfortunes and suffer greatly. Job lamented his affliction and claimed that he does not deserve his suffering. We should not dare to question the Lord when when misfortunes hit us. God remains free to act as He chooses. Let us completely trust that He knows exactly what He is doing.

1. **A "Modern-Day Job"** is someone who is a CHILD OF GOD – one who has been undergoing spiritual transformation, actively serving God and faithfully responding to God's call; however, when bad things happen, he/she begins to feel frustrated and consequently feels to have a legitimate reason to complain to God.
2. **God is in control of everything.** God works in the midst of our misery and suffering. (Job 38:1-11). In God's talk with Job, we learned that 1) we are not as smart as we think we are, and 2) we see that God is much wiser than we will ever know.
3. **We should not stop talking to God for He eventually answers when the time is right.** The first 37 Chapters of the Book of Job describe how Job poured out his heart, and God said nothing. Sometimes the Lord is silent and His silence hurts us more because we feel like God has turned against us.

4. **God allows Satan to turn our life upside down to prove that we are true followers of God even when things are not going well.** Satan wanted to prove that Job was a "fair-weather believer." He believed in God simply because Job's life was going smoothly.
5. **God is wise.** When bad things happen in our life, let us always bear in mind that He does things beyond our understanding.
6. **We must fight the temptation to complain.** When things seem completely illogical, unfair and pointless, we should not disrespect Him or to tell Him that He does not know what He is doing.
7. **Let us ask God to forgive us.** When we tend to complain to God, we should repent and confess that sin to God just like Job did (Job 42:6). When we humbly confront our pride, we can hold on to God's promise of grace.
8. **Even though life can be difficult, there is always a blessing awaiting us** (Job 42:10-12). As the Creator of the universe, God really knows best. In the end, He restored Job's fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before the trials.

Conclusion:

When we are baffled by what is going on in our life, we should honestly bring our pain and grief to God. Bad circumstances are opportunities to humble our hearts, strengthen our faith and experience God's restoration and blessings.

Reflection: How have you been blessed as you have remained trusting and faithful to the Lord during your trials?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us to trust you more when we cannot figure out why bad things happen to good people. Sustain us in this mystery with your love and gracious mercy and assure us that whatever happens, You are in control. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*

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