

Long Suffering—I'm Outta Here!

Purposes of Suffering:

- ◆ To produce fruit
- ◆ To silence Satan
- ◆ To glorify God
- ◆ To teach us dependence on God
- ◆ To refine our lives
- ◆ To rebuke our sin
- ◆ To enlarge our ministry towards others

Response to suffering:

- ◆ Despise it and treat it too lightly
- ◆ Faint under it
- ◆ Receive instruction from it

Hebrews 12:11—“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Let's see how God dealt with Job in these regards. We will now read Job 38-40—yes, all of it...it is glorious! Job is restored by God but only after he is humbled.

Let's review the whole book of Job a bit first:

- ◆ Job loses everything, including his health (Job 1 & 2)
- ◆ He laments the day of his birth and questions God as to why bad things happen to good people (Job 3)
- ◆ His friend Eliphaz says the innocent don't suffer so Job must have sinned and is foolish. Eliphaz tells him to lay down and take the suffering as a discipline from God (Job 4 & 5)
- ◆ Job is angry and complains to God then seeks his friends' sympathy (Job 6)
- ◆ Job questions God's reasons for his trials and complains bitterly, asking God to turn His gaze away from him and leave him alone (Job 7)
- ◆ Another friend, Bildad, tells Job to knock off the complaining and that if he were free of transgression, God would hear him (Job 8)
- ◆ Job goes back and forth laying out his complaints, fears, frustrations (Job 9 & 10)
- ◆ Job's friend, Zophar steps up to the plate next, telling Job that if he only spoke more correctly to God and put away his moral defects then God would take away the suffering (Job 11)
- ◆ Job 12-14 continue with Job's anger at God's deprivation, and pleads with God to speak to him now. Job goes on how short life is and asks does God even care.
- ◆ Eliphaz comes around again and tells Job to cease with the useless talking as it dishonors God
- ◆ Job continues to lament, defend his innocence and his friends keep telling him all the wrong reasons for his suffering (Job 15-37)
- ◆ Job 38-42 is God's answer to Job, Job's understanding and acceptance and his awesome restoration after being in the humbling machine!