

*Why Me,
Lord?*

GOD SPEAKS TO JOB'S FRIENDS

Job 42:7-9

GOD'S ANGER (7)

- They had not spoken rightly of God
- They portrayed God as excessively strict and exacting, nullifying His mercy, longsuffering, loving-kindness and grace
- They wrongly condemned Job

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS (8)

- They were required to make sacrifices, with Job as a mediator between them and God
- Note Job's acceptance with God (9; Ephesians 1:6)

THEIR OBEDIENCE (9)

- They humbled themselves before God and Job

GOD'S GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT

- God "patterned" Job after the sufferings and death of Christ so that he would become a Christ-like mediator between God and other people (2 Corinthians 4:10-12; 1 Timothy 2:5)

"...unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

(John 12:24)

Application

A common pitfall of Christians is their pride and ego. By faith in Christ, we receive the forgiveness of sins and God's Spirit begins to work in us. Our flesh (sinful nature) sees how much better we are in our redeemed state, and easily becomes puffed up with selfish pride. This is a roadblock to us serving God. There are few things less attractive to the unbelieving world than a self-centred, self-righteous, judgmental, know-it-all Christian. As such, we are unknowingly a hindrance to the gospel. In such a state, we will rarely, if ever, be used by God to bring others to a saving knowledge of Christ. God will permit circumstances to come into our lives that will cause us to "die" to ourselves (as Job did). Some of the areas of our lives that are likely to become "troubled" are those where we have a sense of pride, self-trust and self-accomplishment – areas where we exhibit little dependence on God (and little submission to Him). God works mysteriously to replace our pride and arrogance with the humility, meekness and self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ. As this transformation occurs, God uses us more and more to be light and life to others. Our "jar of clay" (flesh) obscures the light – it must be broken so that the indwelling Christ can be revealed (2 Cor 4:6-12). We must first carry about in us the death of Christ, in order for His life to be revealed in us. Death must work in us, so that life can work in others – just as it did with Job (Paul and Peter). Do you want to have a greater measure of resurrection power in your life? It's time to put away the old man and put on the new (Eph 4:17-32; Col 3:1-17), and to receive trials and afflictions as blessings (James 1:2-4). Put your self-confidence and pride where they belong – on the cross, crucified. God opposes the proud, but gives resurrection grace to those that are humbled as Job, Paul and Peter were (1 Pet 5:5-9). Stop pleading with God to pull that thorn out of your flesh! – it's meant to stay there (2 Cor 12:7-10). When you are weak in the flesh, you are strong in the Spirit.