

I'll never forget my first hospital visit as a youth pastor, dutifully filling in for the lead pastor when he was on vacation. I felt like a fish out of water as I rode the elevator to my new responsibility. What do you think your place is when a friend is suffering? Our study today should help us all consider God's calling as we come alongside of our friends. Let's **make sure to respect God's timing.**

Step lightly:

"Is not your fear of God your confidence?" (4:6, NASB)

"Can a mortal be more righteous than God?" (4:17, NIV)

Handle the truth respectfully (5:8-16)

"He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed" (5:9)

"He catches the wise in their craftiness" (5:13)

"Blessed is the man whom God corrects" (5:17)

Sure, that's easy for you to say (chapters 6-7)

"If only my anguish could be weighed" (6:2)

"Oh, that God would be willing to crush me" (6:9)

"A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends..." (6:14)

"Now you have proved to be of no help" (6:21)

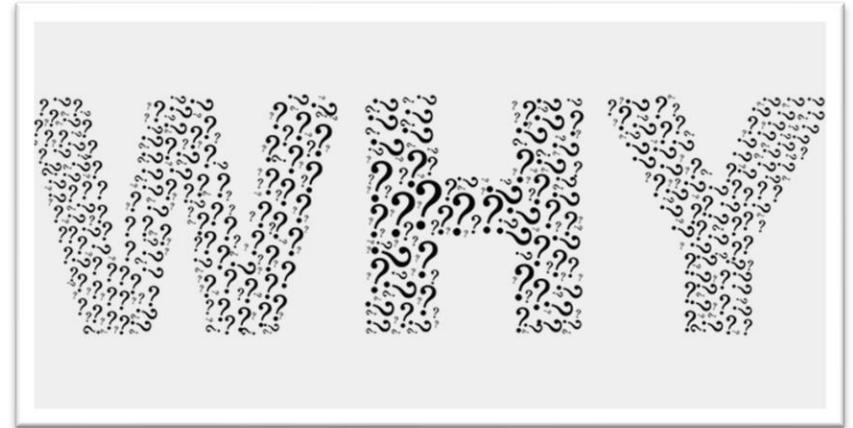
"Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath" (7:7)

"I will complain in the bitterness of my soul" (7:11c)

"What is man that you make so much of him?" (7:17)

Personal Application and Conversations

1. Who do most want to hear from when you are hurting?
2. What was your initial reaction to the words of Eliphaz to his good friend (Job 4-5)?
3. How do you want your family and friends to respond to your weary complaints?
4. How are you likely to respond to friends or family if they criticize the way you handle pain?
5. How did you feel about Job's complaint that God thought about him too much (7:17)? What do you think God wants you to learn from this?



How is your timing?

Job 4-7

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February 28, 2021**

