

**F**rom time to time we struggle with suffering and the sovereignty of God. It can be agonizing when the suffering touches our own flesh. When “innocents suffer” we join the chorus of those who cry out, “How could a good God allow such a thing?” And when friends or family suffer, we struggle with them through the whys or now what? So, what does He desire as we **wrestle with suffering and God’s sovereign mysteries?**

**Eliphaz on suffering:**

- *“Those who plow evil and...sow trouble reap it” (4:8)*
- *“All his days the wicked man suffers torment” (18:20)*
- *“Is not your wickedness great [and]...are not your sins endless?” (22:5)*

**Eliphaz’s Rx for Job:**

- *“Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty” (5:17)*
- *“Your own lips testify against you” (15:6b)*
- *“If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored” (22:21-23)*

**Job’s response to Eliphaz:**

- *“Let me alone; my days have no meaning” (7:16)*
- *“Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high” (16:19)*
- *“If only I could go to His dwelling...I would state my case before Him” (23:3-4)*

**Bildad on suffering:**

- *“Does the Almighty pervert what is right?” (8:3)*
- *“The lamp of the wicked is snuffed out” (18:5)*
- *“How then can a man be righteous before God?” (25:4)*

**Bildad’s Rx for Job:**

- *“If you plead...and are pure and upright...He will restore you” (8:5-6)*
- *“Be sensible, and then we can talk” (18:2b)*

**Job’s response to Bildad:**

- *“I will say to God...tell me what charges you have against me” (10:2b)*
- *“I know that my Redeemer lives [and]...in my flesh I will see God” (19:25-27)*
- *“I will never admit you are right...I will not deny my integrity” (27:5)*

**Zophar on suffering:**

- *“Surely He recognizes deceitful men” (11:11)*
- *“The joy of the godless lasts but a moment” (20:5b)*

**Zophar’s Rx for Job**

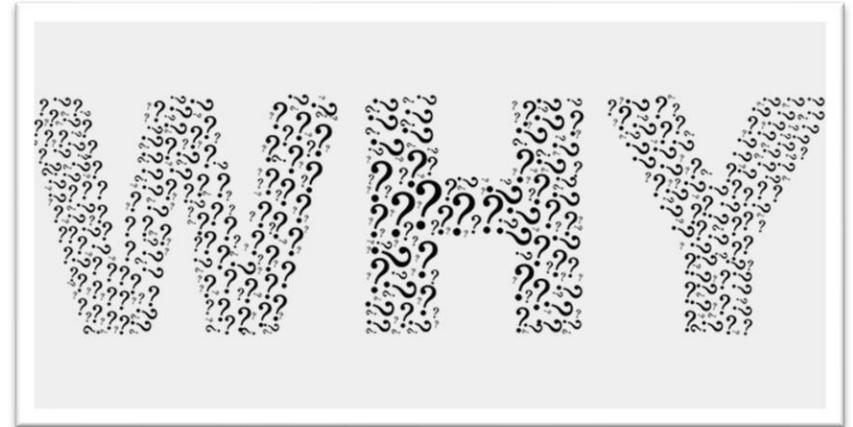
- *“If you devote your heart to Him...and allow no sin to dwell in your tent, then you will lift up your face without shame; you will stand firm without fear” (11:13-15)*

**Job’s response to Zophar:**

- *“I desire to speak to the Almighty...you are worthless physicians, all of you” (13:3-4)*
- *“Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?” (21:7)*

***Personal Application and Interaction***

1. How do you know when friends or family are hurting? What do you do about it?
2. With whom do you share your own emotional, spiritual, or physical pain? How does that usually work out for you?
3. Describe your response to the suffering of innocent people, young and old?
4. How have you been impacted by wrestling with suffering and God's sovereign mysteries?
5. Why does God allow His people to suffer?



***Wrestling with Suffering and God's  
Sovereign Mysteries***

**Job 4-31**

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