

Trusting God's Plan and not Our Own: Job's Friends & God's Word on Suffering

Introduction: For 36 chapters, the basic argument of Job's friends was that Job had done something to deserve God's wrath. If Job would repent, God would restore him. For Job's part, he never cursed God or abandoned Him. However, Job argued with his friends that he did not deserve what was happening and thus, he eventually demanded that God explain himself to him because he was a good man.

1. What are the problems with what Job's friends were saying and what are the problems with what Job would eventually say?
2. Recall what God said to Job's friends at the end of the book. Why is God upset with Job's friends?
 - **Job 42:7** - After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right.
3. The Bible has two messages. L_____ and G_____. Which one was Job and and friends trying to live by? Why do you answer as you do?
4. How does the law provide false comfort? Consider, if you did bad things to so that God will punish you, that means that you can get God to do good things for you by being _____. Thus, you have c_____ of the situation.
5. By contrast, “we live by f_____ and not by _____.” 2 Corinthians 5:7
6. Living by the law is closely related to what is known today as the prosperity Gospel preached by TV preachers such as Joel Osteen? What is the so called “prosperity Gospel?”
7. To this end, a recent sermon included Mr. Osteen making the following assertions:
 - “with every act of obedience, God will reward you.”
 - “when you obey, dreams come to pass, health is restored.”
 - “when you obey, a blessing is attached to it.”
 - God will also free faithful followers from financial burdens, career problems, addictions, sickness, relationship problems and bad habits, because “you have an advantage as a child of God.”
8. What damage does this message do to people's souls? Does this theology mesh with the Book of Job? Do you control God?