If God is Good, Why Does It Hurt?
Job 23:10-11

Why do we have to suffer if God is good? The greatest example of suffering that most of know is Job (pronounced 'Jobe'). In Job 23:10, Job said "He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold." Job said this in the midst of his trial, in the midst of his storm. It leads into one of the important thought processes we can engage in when the tragedies of life intrude upon us.

God is available to you even when you don't see or feel it.

The words of Job are affirming in the sense that Job says God is aware of where I am. God is aware of what I am experiencing. The words "He knows the way I take" is most comforting. It is comforting to know that in the midst of the heartache God is present with you. God is present with you to help you get through this. The way may seem confusing to you right now, but my God will guide me, my God will hold my hand, my God will become the Balm of Gilead that heals this breaking heart. When we move through the corridors of pain and anguish. When the crushing blow of divorce, the tragedy of the loss of a loved one, God is present. We are not alone when we sometimes question the presence of God. Jesus on the cross cried out "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Someone said it this way, "God's hand is invisible but He has an all-seeing eye." God finds0 you no matter where you are located. He found Hagar in the desert. He kept Naomi and Ruth safe traveling from Moab to Bethlehem. He found the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. God knows your every step as well.

Spiritual growth is a journey not a destination.

We cannot afford to lose sight of the last part of that particular text. Job says "when He has tested me, when He has tried me." This is a powerful statement if we choose to

grapple with it. It acknowledges the reality that God is behind the trial. God is behind the test. Nothing is unleashed in the world without the will of God being involved. When we look at the beginning of the Book of Job, many blame Satan for the calamities that beset Job. We must remember, Job was not even in the picture until God brought him up: "Have you considered my servant Job?" Let us not allow the text to get away from us without noticing that God set limits upon the enemy. There was only so much the enemy could do. There was only so far the enemy could go. God knows just how much you can bear. The songwriter did not get it wrong. God is always monitoring the life of His servants. God always has us on His radar. David said it best in the world renowned Psalm 23 when he said, "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want." David is saying that in our times of need God will supply what you need. In your time of confusion, God will supply the stability you need so you won't get lost in the storm. In your time of burden lifting, God will supply the strength so you can carry whatever you need to carry at the time. There is not one need our Shepherd will not supply. It is in the storms and trials of life that the muscles of faith grow.

He keeps you while you're in the storm.

God doesn't just get you through the storm. He keeps while you are in the storm. He doesn't get you through the fire. He keeps you while you are in the fire. When Hagar was thrown into the desert by Abraham and Sarah, God kept Hagar while she was in the desert. God watched over her while she was in the desert. When the nation of Israel was in the wilderness, God did not just get them through the wilderness. God kept them while they were in the wilderness. The same God who watches over these people watches over us in the midst of our suffering

Your Trials are intended to last forever

Job says "after the trial I will come forth as gold." How much faith does that display? How much confidence does Job show in God. Everything has been taken. His children have been killed, property, cattle and sheep killed. His wife tells him to curse God and die. And Job says after I have come through this, after dawn's light has shone, I will come forth as gold. I will come back better than ever before. **"Weeping may endure for the night. But Joy comes in the morning."** It is in the nighttime of our suffering that we ask the question how long the night. It is in the nighttime of the trial that the darkness seems to linger. Isaiah asks the question "how long the night, not long, how long the night, not long." The dawn of victory is always around the corner. The longer the night appears the closer the morning. The darker the night, the brighter the light. I can't tell how long the night will be, but I can tell you the God we serve is an "on time God." He doesn't come too early or too late. He's on time. You can't rush Him, but He won't be late. When the appointed time has come, when the fullness of time has arrived. When the lessons has been learned. When the transformation has been made complete. When the fire is the hottest - He shows up. When the flood is the fiercest, He shows up. He's an on time God.

Faith is always a choice even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Job chooses to believe. Job chooses to trust in God. Job could have done a lot of things. He could have listened to his three friends. He could have listened to his wife. He could have succumbed to the death of his children. He did not. He chose to trust God. He chose to surrender his will and his life to God. Faith is not about feelings. Faith is always about choosing God. In verse 11 Job makes another decision. Job says, "my feet have followed His step and I have kept to His way without turning aside." In the midst of his trial, Job

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My God continue to bless each of you as you move through this life with the victories God gives us on a daily basis.

God Bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool