

JOB

Faith Amidst the Darkness



JOB 20-31

God, Where are You?



23:1 Then Job answered and said: 2 “Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning. 3 Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! 4 I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. 5 I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.

6 Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; he would pay attention to me. 7 There an upright man
could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by
my judge. 8 “Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and
backward, but I do not perceive him; 9 on the left hand
when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the
right hand, but I do not see him.

Job 23:1-9 (ESV)

REALITY

... Sometimes God feels far away.

“27 And Job again took up his discourse, and said: 2 “As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, 3 as long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, 4 my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit. 5 Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. 6 I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.”

Job 27:1-6

When God feels far...



The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a winding road at night. A bright light source, possibly the moon or a distant light, is visible in the upper right, casting a soft glow over the scene. The road curves through a dark landscape, with some distant lights visible on the left side.

When God feels far...

1) Hold fast to your integrity.

“From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. 22 Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ 23 “God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. 24 For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

25 When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, 26 when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, 27 then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. 28 And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

Job 28:20-28



When God feels far...

- 1) Hold fast to your integrity.
- 2) Pursue wisdom.

16 “And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me. 17 The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest. 18 With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic. 19 God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes.

20 I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand,
and you only look at me. 21 You have turned cruel to me;
with the might of your hand you persecute me. 22 You lift
me up on the wind; you make me ride on it, and you toss
me about in the roar of the storm. 23 For I know that you
will bring me to death and to the house appointed for all
living.

Job 30:16-23

Oh, that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary! 36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me as a crown; 37 I would give him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach him. 38 “If my land has cried out against me and its furrows have wept together, 39 if I have eaten its yield without payment and made its owners breathe their last, 40 let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley.” The words of Job are ended.

Job 31:35-40

When God feels far...

- 1) Hold fast to your integrity.
- 2) Pursue wisdom.
- 3) Groan to God.

“26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

Romans 8:26

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