

Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
James 5:11 (ESV)

OUR RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

- **NATURALIST – LIFE IS RANDOM (SUFFERING JUST HAPPENS)**
- **MORALIST – LIFE IS CAUSE AND EFFECT (SUFFERING IS DESERVED)**

Who that was innocent ever perished? Where were the upright cut off?... Those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. **Job 4:7-8 (ESV)**

GOD'S RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

- **WHO IS THIS THAT QUESTIONS MY WISDOM?**

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone? (Job 38:3-6)

- **WHO KEPT THE SEA INSIDE ITS BOUNDARIES?**

Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east? Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth? (Job 38:12-13)

- **IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME ENOUGH TO BE MAD AT ME WHEN I ALLOW PAIN AND SUFFERING, THEN YOU MUST ALSO BELIEVE THAT I MIGHT HAVE A PURPOSE FOR THAT PAIN AND SUFFERING BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

GOD'S PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

1. **SUFFERING CAN REMIND US THAT GOD IS GOD.**

"Now in the clear light of day I see that God if he were merely my (assistant) had betrayed me, if on the other hand he was God he had freed me.

For God is God and if he is God I will find rest nowhere but in his will. And that goes infinitely, immeasurably beyond my largest notion of what he is up to." - Elizabeth Elliot

2. **SUFFERING CAN SHAPE OUR CHARACTER.**

3. **SUFFERING CAN HELP US SEE GOD MORE CLEARLY.**

*I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;
Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes.* **Job 42:5-6 (NASB)**

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. **Job 1:21 (ESV)**

4. **SUFFERING PREPARES US TO HELP OTHERS**

ONE KEY TAKEAWAY

From this message, what is the one key takeaway you will apply to grow your faith?