

## **GOD, SATAN & SUFFERING**

(Job 1:6-12,20-21)

In every aspect of suffering, there is a much bigger spiritual battle that you and I, as believers of Christ, are engaged in. As Ephesians 6:12 reminds us, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* How are we then to fight this spiritual battle? How should we respond to the relentless assaults of the evil one especially in our season of suffering? As we reflect on the life and suffering of Job, we’ll consider two important principles which should guide and encourage us as we strive to trust and glorify God in the face of trials.

**1. Acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ against God and His people.**

- a. Satan accuses the individual Christian (Job 1:6-7, 9-12; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10).  
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- b. Satan assaults the family (Job 1:13-19; 19:17-19).  
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- c. Satan attacks the church of Christ (Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-14)  
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Question for Reflection:

*In what specific ways has Satan assaulted your faith and your family during this ongoing crisis?*

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**2. Affirm \_\_\_\_\_ over Satan and suffering.**

- a. God governs over Satan (Job 1:21-22,12; 2:6; Luke 22:31-32).  
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- b. God graces us with enduring faith (Job 1:8; 2:3; 13:15; James 5:11; Romans 15:5; 2 Corinthians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:3).  
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- c. God guarantees that our suffering is never pointless (Job 42:1-2,5; 19:25; Rom. 8:31-29)  
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Question for Reflection:

*What particular trials in your life have led you to see and realize that your faith in God really perseveres?*

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