

WHAT IS GOD'S ANSWER TO SUFFERING?

(Job 40:1-5)

The sufferings of Job could be likened to a whirlwind, a category 5 hurricane which devastated his livelihood, his family, his marriage, his health and his faith. Throughout the course of his trial, Job was barraged with discouraging counsel from his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. But Job was waiting for just one Person to speak to his grieving heart. He wanted an audience with God. He demanded answers directly from the Almighty. When God finally responded to Job, Job realized that the ultimate answer to all of his suffering is God Himself. Hence, even when **God's action is often beyond our understanding, we can always trust Him**. To further understand this truth, let's consider the first two reasons why we can always trust God in the midst of our trials.

1. In our suffering, God reveals His _____.

- a. When God finally broke His silence and spoke to Job, He used His personal name "LORD" or "Yahweh" to remind Job of His steadfast love and covenant faithfulness (Job 40:1,6; 38:1; 31:35; 23:2-7; Exodus 3:14; 34:6).

- b. Whenever we suffer, we must not lose sight of the fact that ultimately, God Himself is the answer to all of our suffering. He is our LORD who is unwavering in His love and unchanging in His faithfulness (Psalm 25:10; 89:1; Isaiah 54:10; Lamentations 3:22-23).

- c. Question for Reflection:
What circumstances in your life have led you to question God's faithfulness? What other Scriptures have helped you grow in your understanding of God's faithfulness?

2. In our suffering, God reveals His _____.

- a. God's perfection means that God is utterly without flaw, blemish or fault. The LORD is completely perfect in all His characters, words and actions (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30).

- b. According to God, Job was a "faultfinder" who accused the LORD of mismanaging his life and erring in governing the world (Job 40:2; 24:1-17; 27:1-6).

- c. When we as finite creatures encounter the perfection and glory of God, the bubble of our self-importance will burst. We will be humbled enough to say to our God, "*I am unworthy, I lay my hand on my mouth*" (Job 40:3-5).
