

# Anguished Trust

**Job 1:13-22; 2:9-10; 3:11-13, 24-26; 7:11-16; 19:25-27**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Jan. 21, 2024*

The book of Job gives us the honest, raw, and real anguish of suffering, but it also gives us the example of Job in the midst of it.

## I. Our Suffering Has the Potential to Crush Us into Faithless Despair

**Job 2:9** “Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!’”

Job’s wife had just lost ten children, their entire business, and it looks like her husband is dying or at least will never be the same. Her entire world has been turned upside down and shaken.

**V. 9** may be where Job’s wife started with, “Curse God and die!,” but it might not be her final answer or where she ended.

If you’re stuck in **v. 9**, that may be where you are right now, but it doesn’t have to be where you end.

God has not written you off for having a **v. 9** moment. He can handle it and He will love you through it!

## II. Our Suffering Could Press Us into a New Place of Anguished Trust

In contrast to his wife, Job has an anguished trust. This is a painful, troubled trust, but it’s trust nonetheless.

**V. 10** is the hinge that swings us from faithless despair to anguished trust. That hinge is fastened to this great door of God’s sovereignty. It’s the doctrine of God’s sovereignty that keeps us from bailing on God and allows us to hold onto everything we know about God’s goodness and love – even in the midst of confusing and dark times.

**Job 2:10** “But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.’”

When you’re in the midst of intense suffering it’s ok to have emotions, doubts, fear, and confusion swirling around your anguished trust.

Too many Christians think that faith requires them to deny the raging feelings they have and to make sure none of it ever reaches their lips or gets expressed. But that’s not what you see in Job.

A lot of the confusion and emotion inside of Job does make it to his lips! It just never rules his life. That’s what distinguishes anguished trust from faithless despair.

**Job 3: 11-13** “Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? <sup>12</sup>Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? <sup>13</sup>For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest.”

Job’s saying what is so often our first response when suffering really strikes: “I don’t want to be here. I don’t want to go through this. I want to close my eyes and have it all go away. I wish I had never been born so that I wouldn’t be here now.”

When our hearts experience deep suffering and loss the pain seems inescapable and so we’re tempted to run and hide, but there’s no place our pain won’t follow us.

**Job 3:24-26** “For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. <sup>25</sup>For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. <sup>26</sup>I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

**Job 7:11-16** “Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. <sup>12</sup>Am I the sea, or a sea monster, that You set a guard over me? <sup>13</sup>When I say, ‘My bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,’ <sup>14</sup>then You scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, <sup>15</sup>so that I would choose strangling and death rather than my bones. <sup>16</sup>I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath.”

Job is struggling with God’s hand in all of this, but he’s taking his complaint directly to God and not away from God. In other words, he’s talking *to* God *about* God!

### III. We Have to Remember What Matters Most – that Cannot be Taken from Us Despite the Darkness

**Job 19:25-27** “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He will stand upon the earth at last. <sup>26</sup>And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! <sup>27</sup>I will see Him for myself. Yes, I will see Him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!”

This is a magnificent burst of faith when you consider how little God had actually revealed to the people in Job’s day about the future hope of the resurrection.

Job reaches down deep and lays hold of what really matters most and reaffirms what he really believes when everything’s crumbling around him.

He says, “*I* know that my Redeemer lives.” *I* know this. The word “know” is the Hebrew word ‘yada’ that’s used to describe an intimate, personal knowledge.

His hope is fixed on a person – his Savior, Jesus Christ!