

5 Therefore, having been *justified by faith*, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our *introduction by faith into this grace* in which we stand; and we *exult in hope* of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Romans 5:1-5 (NASB)

- The result of faith is hope
- The result of tribulation is hope (through perseverance and proven character)
- Perseverance and proven character are related to our faith!!

## Faith Without Answers – Lessons from Job

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<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said,

<sup>7</sup> “Now gird up your loins like a man;

I will ask you, and you instruct Me.

<sup>8</sup> “Will you really annul My judgment?

Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?

<sup>9</sup> “Or do you have an arm like God,

And can you thunder with a voice like His?

- Job 40:6-9

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# Faith Without Answers – Lessons from Job

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- Superdome – New Orleans, Louisiana
  - Largest fixed-dome structure in the world
  - Capacity: Almost 80,000 seats
  - Could not withstand a miniscule demonstration of God’s power!!



# The Challenge of Faith Without Answers

- Faith in God's Power vs. our power
  - Ephesians 1:18-23 – “surpassing greatness of power toward us who believe.”
  - Romans 8:31-39 – “In all of these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”
- Faith in God's Power over Satan
  - Job 1:12; 2:6 – God set limits over what Satan could do to Job
  - Luke 22:31 – “Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat”
- Faith that God knows our limits
  - I Cor. 10:13 – “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”



# The Challenge of Faith Without Answers

- Faith that God will ultimately vindicate us
  - Job 42:7 – God vindicated Job in the minds of his friends
  - I Cor. 4:5 – “Wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”
- Faith that all things work together for good – Romans 8:28
- Faith that God will ultimately reward us



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# The Challenge of Faith Without Answers

Then Job answered the LORD and said,

<sup>2</sup> “I know that You can do all things,  
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

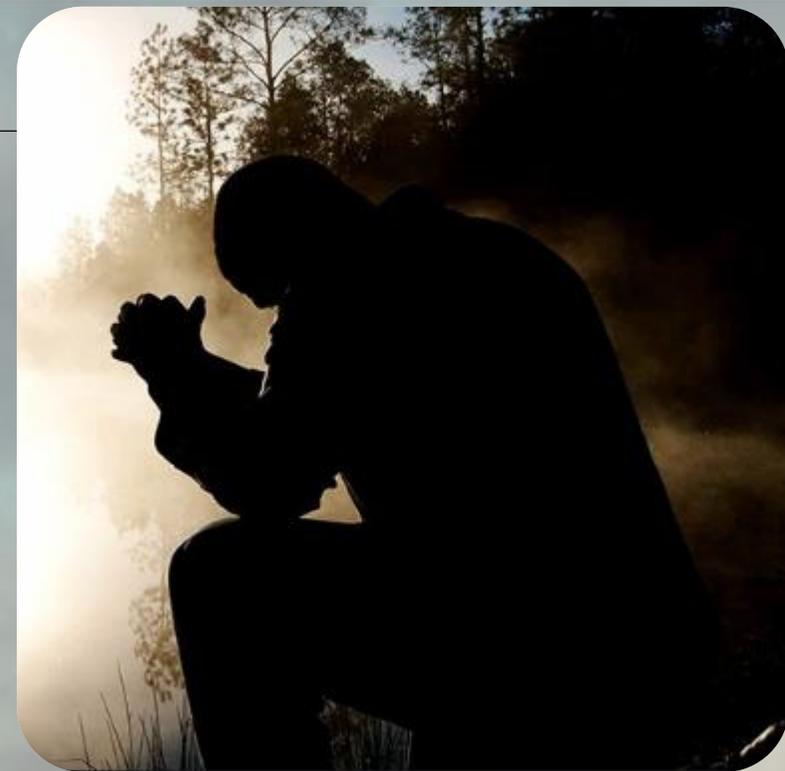
<sup>3</sup> “Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?  
Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,  
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

<sup>4</sup> “Hear, now, and I will speak;  
I will ask You, and You instruct me.”

<sup>5</sup> “*I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;  
But now my eye sees You;*

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore I retract,  
And I repent in dust and ashes.”*

- Job 42:1-6



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# The Challenge of Faith Without Answers

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- The Challenge for the “Encouragers”
  - Sincerity (Job 2:11-13)
  - Truly believed they understood God’s Nature
  - Sincerely wrong (Job 42:7-9)
- The Challenge for Us
  - Don’t forget II Cor. 1:3-7
  - Don’t assume you understand the suffering
  - Encourage the encouragers
  - Have courage



# The Challenge of Faith Without Answers

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- The End of Job's Story
  - God restored Job's fortunes when he prayed for his friends
  - His friends needed a mediator
  - God provided a mediator
- The Heart of Our Story
- “For while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly” – Romans 5:6

