

## WHAT PURPOSE?

Ps.88:14 [LB] “O Jehovah, why are you turning your face from me and looking the other way?”

Ps.94:14 [LB] “The Lord will not forsake His people for they are His prize.”

Ps. 91:15 [LB] “When he calls on Me I will answer; I will be with him in trouble and rescue and honor him.”

There are so many things that happen in our lives that does not make sense to us! “What purpose?” We wonder what purpose these difficulties could possibly serve! When the “heavens seem like brass” and God does not seem to hear our cries, it appears that He has turned a deaf ear when we call out to Him! We simply cannot see any purpose or reason for the troubles we are in!



At times we feel like we *must* be related to good old Job! We read and re-read some of his questions trying to make some sense out of our losses, misunderstandings or afflictions of mind, body and spirit! We know we must examine ourselves to see if we are walking in the faith. [2 Cor.13:5] We check out Psalm 26 to check out our integrity! We repent of everything or sin we can think of!

Ps.25:[LB] “Come, LORD and show me your mercy, for I am helpless, overwhelmed, in deep distress; My problems go from bad to worse. O save me from them all! See my sorrows; feel my pain; forgive my sins!”

Yet the sense of God’s Presence and help seems so distant! “O Lord, for what purpose have all these things happened to me, my church, my loved ones, etc?” Is there something I am not grasping? *If so, please open my eyes, my heart my mind!* How long, O Lord, before I see the deliverance of the Lord?

Ps.22:11 [LB] “Don’t leave me now, for trouble s near and no one else can possibly help!” v.19 “O, Lord, don’t stay away. O my God, my strength, hurry to my aid!”

Another look at the Book of Job reveals he had so many questions and yet it appeared there were no right answers! He questioned the agonies of loss, misunderstandings, physical pains, false accusations and *why God was so silent!* Fear and faith were in a fierce battle for predominance in Job’s quest for answers! At times he despaired to the point of wishing he had never been born! Job 17:11 [LB] “My good days are in the past, my hopes have disappeared. My heart’s desires are broken.” These words reveal his perceptions of his predicaments! His future looked dim, his goals, dreams and way of life were severely damaged, even gone! Hopeless in his eyes! His desires were crushed and confused, no longer bright and clear.

Do any of Job's Writings sound like he cry of your heart? We often identify with the sufferings and questions of "what purpose" the people of the Bible had! Do our questions insult God? Are they an insight? Sometimes we feel guilty when we voice them and we wonder if we lost our trust in the LORD. Yet a wise man will ask questions! What we believe, what we expect, what we have trusted will be challenged! Trials come into the lives of every true Believer. During these times, our character is exposed, both to ourselves and others! In due time, God will reveal His purpose for allowing or even orchestrating the challenges of our lives!

When He tests our faith, will we still trust Him? Job said "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." [Job 13:15] When we read some of Job's questions or statements, we may say, "I'd never say that of God!" Even worse, we may join in when others make harsh judgments of the sufferings of others, as surely as *Job's comforters* did!

Sometimes our obedience is tested! Will we do God's Will even when it seems we are forsaken? When we feel deserted, it is the very time we must cling to God's Promises, even when the enemy of our soul or our flesh is mocking us! At these moments we must turn to His Word, such as the verses in Psalm 91 and 94! His Word endures forever! It does not change like our feelings do!

Will our obedience to His Word in the midst of our trials make a difference to ourselves, others, and God? Yes, indeed! We believe His promises first, and then we determine to obey them. *Believe He is with you, even when it seems He is far away!* Heb.13:5b [KJV] "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Job23:10 b [KJV] "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as pure gold."

I have often been blessed by the words of an old hymn by John H. Sammis [1846-1919] "Trust and Obey" It still has a wonderful message for us today! In verse 4, some of the words are: "We never can prove, the delights of His love, until all on the altar we lay."

There are rewards for those who trust and obey! Singing this old hymn in our times of trials will encourage our hearts! Reading God's Word will instruct us how to act in the midst of our troubles and help us to accept His Will and challenges in our lives, "For this purpose" He will accomplish something beautiful in us!

May God keep you in perfect peace as He perfects His Will in your life, even when you have felt forsaken! Our lives and our times are in His hands!

**Excerpt from "The Overflowing Cup" by Mary Mayko**



## THE PLACE OF REST

Isaiah 30:15a KJV “For thus saith the Lord God, the holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”

Isaiah 26:3 KJV “Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is kept on Thee, because he trusts in Thee.”

A place of rest is often described as a place of quietness and peace. Every year our activities seem to increase to the point where one feels there is no time for real rest! Our bodies, minds and spirits are all designed in a way that requires rest and renewal or we will pay a high price for that neglect! A day of rest was provided for mankind at the time of Creation. The Lord knows what we need to keep a proper balance in life!

While planning ahead is desirable and practical, we need to include that rest and recreation time! We must allow the Lord to direct our paths and guide us with His wisdom! When we do this, we begin to trust Him more and realize in a very real way, we can not plan every thing in our lives in such a perfect way that we will not experience troubles or interruptions! If we fail to stop and rest, our weariness can cause fears and doubts to rise! At those times, we need to run, not walk to His Word!

Psalm 56:3 KJV “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.”

Trusting God even in our fears will bring us peace of mind and allow us to rest that we may be renewed. When our minds or spirits are disturbed through pain, loss or dangers, trusting God can produce the rest and peace that surpasses all understanding! That is truly an amazing work of God! Phil.4:6-7 KJV “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep (preserve) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Supernatural peace and rest has a Divine source! In the natural, the events, people and things that upset us so much that resulting angers, fears and sorrows would normally scar our minds and spirits and disturb our ability to rest! The supernatural rest God has for us enables us to overcome and have peace in the midst of injuries, illness, betrayals by friends or family! Sometimes we have endured false accusations or misunderstandings that can only have victory by abiding and trust in our Lord!

Col. 3:15-16 KJV “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called into One Body, and be ye thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the LORD.”

The peace and rest of God is evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit at work in our lives. The more intimately we know God the more we trust Him, and that Fruit becomes a witness to those who know us. Fears interfere with sound reasoning, but God’s peace will bring quietness to our minds. How we think will determine how much of God’s rest and peace will rule in our heart and mind!

Except from “The Overflowing Cup” by Mary Mayko 2000

## “JOB’S TRIUMPH!”

Job 3:23 KJV “Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God has hedged in?”

Things are not always as they seem to be! The dust of warfare has settled and the sound of departing cattle has gone. The epitaph for his children has been recorded for history. With the crusts hardening on his boil covered body, Job surveys his situation with a perplexed mind and asks the question quoted above!

The joyful thought of light and life certainly do not suit his thoughts as he mourns his present state! Light is one of the words used to describe God’s Nature, the very dealings of God with a man brings an absence of darkness and reveals life to that man! Here, Job is in the pit of despair due to the recent events of his life and says: “Why bother God? Why bring light or life to me, I am like a journeying man who has lost his way, in fact my way is hid.”

Read Job 1-2- and 3 and you will find a man like many folks today, just overcome by financial problems, illness, or the death of a loved one or problems “in the last land”

Perhaps you are in this place and as you look at your circumstances you are saying, “Why bother God? Why Pray? Why trust in You or read my Bible? In fact, God, don’t lead or guide me! It is useless! Hopeless!”

God never stops dealing with us *because it is never hopeless!* In fact, His love for us is always trying to help us understand, *He is God* and able to help us, comfort us, even reverse the downward trend of events that would overcome us!

Job learns in his trial that God sheds light to encourage him because He would heal him, restore his wealth and family, and build character and faith in him. What seems to us as gone or hopeless is really but hidden by clouds or concealed in a mist! In a darkened room we walk cautiously, knowing the furniture is still there. We may not be able to find a letter or small article in the dark, but we know when the light is turned on all will be normal and we will be able to see again!

Job too, *triumphed after his trial*, and *after he prayed* for his friends, God reversed his ill fortune. (Job 42:10) This was Job’s testimony! “I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee: wherefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6. When God opens our eyes to His Light, we are triumphant!

Excerpt from: “Echoes for Today’s Listening” by Rev. JK Golding