

Living On A Prayer - Job's Prayer of Anguish

Introduction

Job's prayer is like an elaborate poem cursing the day he was born because of all his hardships. It paints a picture of a faithful and patient man coming to the end of his endurance and asking God a question we can probably all relate to: Why?

The book of Job raises some tough questions, like why do bad things happen to good people? Unfortunately, we don't get a satisfying answer, but we do get some assurances. We can be sure that God hears us, will respond, and is working in the details.

Job had reached his limit, and then he reached out to God. His prayer is an example of how we can cry out to God no matter what is going on in our lives, even if our suffering causes us to ask *why*. We may not understand why we face challenges and suffering, and we may not be able to see any good coming from what we go through, but "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him..." (Romans 8:28), and God is greater than your questions. After Job prayed his prayer of anguish, God showed up. He came in a storm and showed Job the awe-inspiring and overwhelming intricacies and details of the universe He created and oversees. This storm probably wasn't how Job expected or hoped God would answer his prayer. We don't always get the answer we expect or hope for when we pray, but we can always be sure that God is listening and working in the details.

Read Your Bible

- Job 3
- Luke 18:1-8

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Talk about a time you were punished for something you didn't do.
2. How would you define justice?
3. When bad things happen to you, do you feel like it's because you deserve them?
4. When bad things happen to others, do you think it's because they deserve them?
5. Talk about a time when you questioned God or wondered what He was doing.
6. Are there some details in the world that you think you would question God about?
7. What is your favorite prayer when you are struggling?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of prayer. We are so grateful that we can turn to you in our celebrations and our suffering. Thank you for hearing us when we cry out to You. Please

help us to see Your wisdom and goodness working in the details even when they are beyond our understanding. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen