

limitations) to help His people improve and grow spiritually.

Regarding Job, at the beginning of the Book of Job, God proclaims that Job is the **best in the entire world**. At the end of the book, Job tells us that he used to know God from hearing about Him. After Job's troubles ended, Job proclaimed that **he had seen God**. Paraphrased, Job had heard about God before, but in the end, **Job knew God experientially!**

Knowing God more intimately was one of the beautiful purposes of God allowing this suffering.

Likewise, Paul became a better believer than he already was through his thorn in the flesh.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7 (quoted above), Paul acknowledges that this messenger from Satan was given to him to **keep him humble**. Paul received tremendous insights from the Holy Spirit and realized that he could easily be puffed up with pride. God allowed Satan's messenger in order to prevent Paul from moving towards arrogance.

Also, when Paul prayed for this thorn to be removed, God pointed Paul to **walk in God's grace** (see 2 Corinthians 12:9 quoted above.) The thorn in Paul's flesh caused Paul to live experientially in the Grace of God.

Living in God's grace and avoiding conceit are two excellent reasons for God to allow Paul's thorn in the flesh.

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### Does God Love You That Much

Here is the searing question. Does God love us enough to allow hardships and difficulties to make us more like Jesus? The resounding answer is... **YES!** God loves us that much and more!

Will you embrace what God wants to do in your life, or will you grumble and complain about what He allows?

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Conclusion

The right thing for believers to do is to trust God completely. Remember, the just shall live by faith! Furthermore, **faith is what we do not see!**

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**"*

(Hebrews 11:1)

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### There Is No One Like Job

*"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that **there is none like him** in the earth, a **perfect** and an **upright** man, one that **feareth God**, and **escheweth evil?**" (Job 1:8)*

Understanding the integrity and character of Job and Paul is of primary importance to initiating this message.

In the case of Job, we see God **BRAGGING** to Satan about Job! This boasting about Job says everything we need to know about the type of man he was.

God continues to identify Job as perfect and upright. The Hebrew word translated as perfect means complete and morally pious. The word for upright is defined as straight and just.

## SUFFERING SAINTS - JOB AND PAUL

Job feared God, and therefore, he was wise.

*“And unto man he said, Behold, **the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom**; and to depart from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28)*

Lastly, Job is described by God as one who escheweth evil. The Hebrew word translated as “escheweth” means to “turn off.” Essentially, Job refused to participate in evil.

All in all, God gives a very glowing review of Job and his manner of life.

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Paul, A Chosen Vessel

*“But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a **chosen vessel** unto me, to bear my name before the **Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel**.” (Acts 9:15)*

Likewise, Scripture speaks highly of the Apostle Paul’s character. Jesus sent Ananias to Paul so he could minister to Paul’s blindness and so he could receive his sight as well as the Holy Spirit. Ananias protested because of the dangers the Apostle Paul posed to believers.

Jesus’ response to Ananias’ objection is to tell Ananias that Paul was a **vessel chosen by Christ Himself**. Paul was going to be entrusted by God to share the Gospel with the whole world. Gentiles, kings, and the

children of Israel would all hear about Jesus via Paul’s ministry.

Like Job, these accolades from the Most High are robust evidence of Paul’s integrity and godliness.

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### God Allows Satan To Attack Job

*“And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath **is in thy power**; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.” (Job 1:12)*

*“And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, **he is in thine hand**; but save his life.” (Job 2:6)*

**Unbelievable!** After BRAGGING to Satan about how fantastic Job was... God gives the devil permission to do anything he wants to Job except kill him.

God told us that Job was the best of the best. There was no one like Job on all the earth. Nevertheless, here, **God gives Satan almost free reign to assail Job**.

We must diligently try to understand why God allows evil to come upon His people. There are reasons.

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God Allows Satan To Buffet Paul

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was **given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me**, lest I should be exalted above measure.” (2 Corinthians 12:7)*

Similarly, we see God allowing a messenger from Satan to beat up on the Apostle Paul. In this instance, Paul was given the thorn in the flesh. Later in this passage, we read that Paul prayed three times to have this thorn removed, and God said, **NO!**

Once again, we desperately need to understand why God allows these types of suffering.

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### Why Did God Allow Such Satanic Assaults

*“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.” (Job 42:5)*

*“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

Answering this question is critical for solid doctrinal comprehension, and the answer is quite simple. God allows evil (within