



What I Know I Don't Know

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Eternally Speaking Now

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**"For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord.
For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts."**

Isaiah 55:8-9

A month ago, our prayer team passionately interceded for two men facing cancer. A week later, one of the men joyfully announced his test results were clear, while the other sadly reported his cancer had worsened.

I found myself yet again faced with the question of why God manifests His healing to some and not to others. While I've wrestled through this issue repeatedly, studied it extensively, and lived through it personally, it tends to require an occasional revisit, especially when it reappears up close and personal.

Why has His healing been made manifest for one person and not another? Why did the nice person's life end too early, while the cruel person's life continues to destroy others? Why does our Heavenly Father delay a blessing, provision, or allowance that clearly fits His will as revealed in the Bible?

I believe the Lord wants us to remember this today:
not only is He walking with us through our trials,
but there's also a bigger picture that exists
within the frame of every circumstance.
He is constantly at work on a grander scale of our lives,
while, in almost every case, we're unaware of the details.

Simply stated, in every season, through each situation,
there's always something we don't know.

The Word of God eloquently drives home this point throughout the book of Job. Job was a righteous man, described by the Lord Himself as **"a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil."** (Job 1:8) Nevertheless, Job experienced a scathing slew of disasters, ultimately leading to the loss of his property, death of all his children, and the onslaught of a hideous disease.

While you and I can read the entire account of his life today and see the big picture, Job had to endure tragedy and trauma without an inkling of what was really taking place. Here is a brief summary:

- Satan challenged God in front of the entire heavenly host, claiming (erroneously, by the way) that Job would curse God to His face if He took away his blessings. Job knew not of this confrontation.
- God permitted the devil to remove some blessings, but He also put limits on how much the devil was permitted to do. Job didn't know the depth and specifics of God's sovereign love for him.
- From the beginning, the Lord foreknew that Job would not deny Him. Job was unaware of His Creator's confidence in his faith.

- Almighty God, who is eternal and exists outside time, planned ahead of time to restore back to Job double all he would lose. Job had no idea of these future rewards.

It's humbling to consider that this man, who didn't know what we know now as we read the Bible, upon learning of the sudden destruction of his property and loss of all his children, responded in this manner:

**Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head;
and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said:
"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return
there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord."**

Job 1:20-21

Job worshiped.

How are we responding to the situations in our lives for which we do not know the bigger picture?

As if the original wave of tragedy for Job wasn't enough, satan challenged God a second time, as he had the first. So another blast of disaster hit God's righteous man, this time in the form of a terrible sickness. Job was still clueless about the heavenly showdown taking place behind the scenes. He was unaware that his very name was at center stage, as countless spiritual beings in heaven watched his life unfold like a theater performance.

After being stricken with painful boils all over his entire body, Job still refused to deny the Lord.

**Then his wife said to him,
"Do you still hold fast to your integrity?
Curse God and die!" But he said to her,
"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks.
Shall we indeed accept good from God,
and shall we not accept adversity?"
In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**

Job 2:9-10

Job held his tongue.

Again I ask, how are we dealing with the situations in our lives for which we do not know the big picture?

The book of Job reaches its crescendo in chapters 38-42. These are by far my favorite chapters in the entire book, as they document God's responses to Job's questions. I cannot encourage you enough to read these chapters on your own, *and to do so regularly*. They are as much God's answers to *our* questions, as they were to Job's. [You can read the verses here](#), beginning with chapter 38. (Tip: these verses are especially effective for teens to read. I don't think I need to explain why.)

Following is a short section of Scriptures from these powerful chapters. Please don't skip one line of this. Take your time to consider every sentence. This is God's Word for each of us today, and His Word gives great comfort, healing, and freedom.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

**"Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Now prepare yourself like a man;
I will question you, and you shall answer Me.**

**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?**

**Have you entered the springs of the sea?
Or have you walked in search of the depths?
Have the gates of death been revealed to you?
Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?
Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth?
Tell Me, if you know all this.**

**Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where is its place,
that you may take it to its territory,
that you may know the paths to its home?
Do you know it, because you were born then,
or because the number of your days is great?**

**Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
Can you set their dominion over the earth?
Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
that an abundance of water may cover you?
Can you send out lightnings, that they may go,
and say to you, 'Here we are!'
Who has put wisdom in the mind?
Or who has given understanding to the heart?
Who can number the clouds by wisdom?**

**Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?
He who rebukes God, let him answer it."**

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

**"Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You?
I lay my hand over my mouth.
Once I have spoken, but I will not answer;
Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."**

Job 38:1-5, 16-21, 24, 33-37; 40:3-5

After Job's initial response in chapter 40 above, God's loving yet firm questions continue for two more chapters. When the Lord concludes, Job answers with finality, in genuine humility. Following is his reply.

May this be the sincere, contrite cry of our hearts as well.

**"I know that You can do everything,
and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.
You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?'**

**Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
Listen, please, and let me speak; You said,
'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'
"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees You.**

Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."
Job 42:2-6

CHALLENGE

I can't help but wonder how many disciples of Christ are currently being described by God to the entire spiritual realm as "**righteous, blameless, upright, fearing God, and shunning evil.**" How would *you* respond if you found out your name was being considered right now before the heavenly host, as Job's was centuries ago?

Since we cannot answer God's questions in Job, and since it's painfully evident there are countless things occurring behind the heavenly curtain of our lives, then it's safe to conclude that in every single situation and every delicate detail of our lives, there will always be something we do not know.

Yes, one thing I'm sure I know
is that there is more I don't know
than I do know.

I guess at some point as we wrestle through life's unknowns, like Job, we reach the end of the questions and enter into a fresh space with the Lord. We come to the end of ourselves and encounter...*a new beginning with Jesus*. Do you know what then occurs? It is in that place where the God of the universe pours Himself into our emptiness and

*shares
His
knowledge
with
us.*

Let the following truths sink into your soul.

**"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
for wisdom and power belong to Him.
It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
...there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets..."**

Daniel 2:21, 23, 28

**"The secret [of the wise counsel] of the LORD
is for those who fear Him,
and He will let them know His covenant and
reveal to them [through His word] its [deep, inner] meaning.
My eyes are continually toward the LORD,
for He will bring my feet out of the net."**

Psalms 25:14-15 Amplified Bible (AMP)

**"Call to Me and I will answer you, and tell you
[and even show you] great and mighty things,
[things which have been confined and hidden],
which you do not know and understand and cannot distinguish."**

Jeremiah 33:3 (AMP)

**"Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations!
I will be exalted in the earth."**

Psalm 46:10 (AMP)

This is the love of our gloriously good God, who longs to be in intimate fellowship with us-- through both our marvelous moments on the mountain-tops *and* our taxing travels through the valley of the shadow of death.

I don't know why the things that have happened to you have occurred, but the Lord does. None of what I've written here is intended to minimize your pain or affliction. I've come to the end of myself countless times as well, and there isn't a person on earth who will ever fully understand the intricacies of another's heartache in the way that Jesus does. *He's our only hope.*

God may or may not explain things to us in the way that we desire,
but I do know that, as we respond like Job and
choose to worship Him through adversity,
He will exalt Himself, share His heart with us,
and bless us in ways unimagined.
And, His Word reveals multiple times in the Bible that
He will restore to us double what we've lost.

The Lord says in Zechariah 9:12,
**"Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope.
Even today I declare that I will restore double to you."**

So press on, endure, and thrive, my fellow Christian.

Continue to pray with faith,
trust in Jesus,
and lovingly abandon all to Him,
without needing to know it all.

Let's soak in that strange sense of
gratitude and comfort that comes
when we're living at peace with not knowing everything and
when we're choosing to **trust in the One who does.**

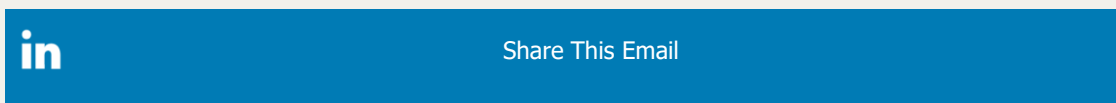
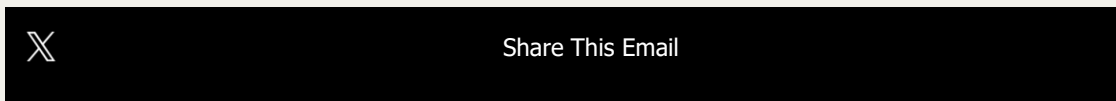
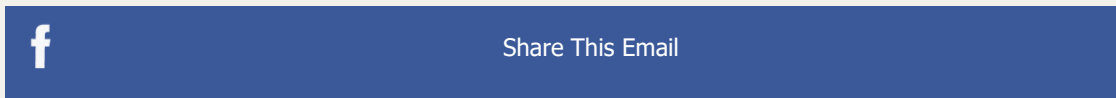
**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the
wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments
and His ways past finding out!
"For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has become His counselor?
Or who has first given to Him
and it shall be repaid to him?"
For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things,
to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

Romans 11:33-36

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