

# JOB

## A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

### STUDY FOURTEEN

## A Recommitment to Things That Matter

*Selections from Job 27–28*

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*We never hear Job lamenting his missing a deal or longing for a fat contract that would enlarge his camel caravan business. Never once.*  
—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**S**UFFERING helps us straighten out our priorities. Viktor Frankl, a twentieth-century Austrian psychiatrist and neurologist born into a Jewish family, deeply embodied that maxim.

Frankl suffered through the atrocities of the Holocaust, but, beyond simply enduring his ordeal, he developed meaning through his ordeal. Three lessons he learned gave him the hope he needed and have given hope to many who've walked suffering's path.

First, he argued that, while we may lack control over our suffering, we can control our attitude. Second, having a purposeful “why” for living enables us to endure any circumstantial “what.” Third, suffering forces a dramatic clarification of our priorities, refining what's important while burning away the trivial.<sup>1</sup>

If Job could speak today, he would affirm all three points. He couldn't control his trials—only his attitude. So, he focused on his “why” for living, which was to honor God and never curse Him.

Job's suffering also refined his priorities. Tragedy had swept through his life like a tornado ripping away everything he held dear. He was bankrupt, childless, friendless, and diseased. Boils covered his body, causing searing, unrelenting pain. But Job's suffering didn't end his life, rather, in many ways, it marked a new beginning.

Whatever was important to him before wasn't so important anymore. With hands empty of earthly treasures, Job could grasp the eternal more firmly. Suffering renewed Job's commitment to God and the things that really mattered—which we'll see in the passage for this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study.



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SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES  
BIBLE STUDIES

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## PREPARE YOUR HEART

“My suffering was good for me,” the psalmist acknowledged, “for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees” (Psalm 119:71). Is it hard for you to imagine your suffering being good for you? As you open the Word, humbly invite the Lord to open your eyes to what He might want to show you through Job in this study.



## TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Job 27–28 forms an interlude between Job’s dialogues with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar in chapters 3 through 26 and his final appeal to God in chapters 29 through 31. In this section, Job finds a needed respite—which couldn’t begin until his three alleged friends stopped talking! They blamed. They ridiculed. They pointed fingers. They lectured. When they finally shut their mouths, Job could attain clarity about his suffering and find a little solid ground on which to stand.

Job still struggled with physical anguish. He still walked in the valley of despair over the loss of all ten of his children. How did he possibly go on? *His view of God kept him going.* In this passage, Job’s focus was vertical—he became totally preoccupied with thoughts of God. Flat on his back, there was no place to look but up.

As perplexed as Job was about his undeserved suffering, Job was beginning to discover some of the benefits of suffering. Job accepted his suffering and used it as an opportunity to realign his priorities. The deeper the pain, the clearer the vision. How precious is the wisdom that is birthed from suffering!



## Observation: Job’s Rich Reflections

Observation is our first step in the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method.<sup>2</sup> Read Job’s reflections in [Job 27–28](#) slowly and carefully to see the big picture. In the next phase, interpretation, we’ll draw five priorities for sufferers based on Job’s reflections.

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### ***Job Affirms His Righteousness—Job 27:1–6***

Read again [Job 27:1–6](#). Job was so confident of his righteous standing before God that he effectively took an oath, noting “I vow by the living God” (Job 27:2). To whom did Job attribute his suffering, according to 27:2? What oath did he make in 27:3–4?

What additional promise did Job make in 27:5–6? What clue points to that promise being directed at his friends?

### ***Job Curses the Wicked—Job 27:7–23***

In Job’s day, it was common for those who suffered to call down God’s judgment on their accusers. They’re imprecatory prayers. To *imprecate* means “to invoke evil on,” or “to curse.” Answer the following questions based on [Job 27:7–23](#). How would you paraphrase the plight of the wicked in 27:7–10?

In 27:11–12, how do you know Job directed his comments specifically to his friends?

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Job described the inheritance of the wicked beginning in Job 27:13. How did he depict their destiny in 27:14–15?

According to 27:16–19, what poetic word picture did he use to describe the futility of amassing wealth?

### ***Job Searches for Wisdom—Job 28:1–28***

Review [Job 28:1–28](#). What images did Job use to illustrate our search for wisdom in 28:1–6? In 28:7–8? And in 28:9–11? What pattern do you see?

Job continued the hunt for wisdom. How does 28:12–15, 20 serve as a summary of his search?

Where is wisdom found, according to 28:23–24? Who alone is the author of wisdom, according to 28:26–28?

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*Dig into the earth and find precious metal, but you won't find wisdom. Probe into outer space and the mysteries will unfold, but you won't find wisdom. Study nature's wonders and make exciting discoveries, but you won't find wisdom. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



## Interpretation: Priorities to Ponder

The temporary silence among Job's friends permitted him time to reflect deeply on God, on God's mysterious ways, and on his own commitments. Five priorities from Job's life surfaced in the themes from Job's speech in Job 27–28. After each theme below, reread the verses and write the priority in the form of a principle—a timeless biblical truth that applies to all people. We've completed the first one as an example.

### Thoughts of God—Job 27:1–13

Job focused his thoughts on God in [Job 27:1–13](#).

PRIORITY ONE: *Thinking God's thoughts rather than humanistic reasoning is our highest goal.*

*What do you think about God? Do you see Him as the one who gives breath in your nostrils? The very giver of life? Do you see Him as the one who will call all into judgment some day? Do you see Him as the Almighty? Do you acknowledge His power is greater than any power that you would ever witness on this earth? Makes all the difference in the world in how you view life. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

### Integrity—Job 27:3–6

Job asserted his integrity in [Job 27:3–6](#).

PRIORITY TWO: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Job won't fake it. He won't deceive his friends. He will not lie. He will tell them the truth. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

### Justice—Job 27:13–23

Job affirmed the triumph of justice in [Job 27:13–23](#).

PRIORITY THREE: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Rest assured, God knows. God keeps the right record. He knows what He's about. He knows who is righteous and who is wicked. He's keeping the score.*  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

## Wisdom—Job 28:1–22

Job sought God's wisdom in [Job 28:1–22](#).

PRIORITY FOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Wisdom, I believe, is looking at life from God's point of view. Understanding is responding to life's challenges as God would have us respond. Not in panic. Not in confusion. We trust in Him.* —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

## Fear of the Lord—Job 28:23–28

Job encouraged a healthy fear of the Lord in [Job 28:23–28](#).

PRIORITY FIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Arise in the morning with this awesome respect for God and hatred for sin, and it is amazing how you'll be able to see life as He wants you to see it and respond as He would have you respond.* —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



## Correlation: Wisdom Is Found in God Alone

In Proverbs 3:13–20, Solomon addressed the value and benefits of wisdom. To what precious elements does he compare wisdom? What are its benefits?

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According to [Proverbs 8:22–27](#), how is wisdom personified? How old is wisdom? With whom is it identified?

The apostle Paul addressed wisdom in [1 Corinthians 1:24, 30](#). How is God's wisdom manifested? What are wisdom's benefits?

Everything we need to know about the power and the wisdom of God is in Jesus Christ, our closest companion through suffering.

*I am convinced suffering is not an enemy; it is a friend. Not until we embrace it as such, will we glean its benefits. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### **Application: Embracing Suffering as a Friend**

Job's perspective and priorities crystallized in his season of suffering when God was silent. Here are the five priorities from our passage as Pastor Chuck states them:

1. Thinking God's thoughts rather than humanistic reasoning is our highest goal.
2. Walking in integrity instead of deceit, blame, and bitterness is the only way to live.
3. Recognizing that wrong will occur but will not ultimately triumph gives us peace and a sense of justice.
4. Seeking wisdom through human effort is a futile waste of time.
5. Cultivating a healthy and holy fear of the Lord makes us wise and provides understanding.

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Which of the five priorities Job discovered can you set as your priority in this season of life?

How are you doing at thinking God's thoughts as He reveals them in Scripture? What attributes or qualities come to your mind when you think about God? What have you learned about God through suffering that you would have never learned otherwise?

Our culture often teaches us to resist, fight, and flee suffering. In fact, suffering is often God's messenger bringing wisdom and insight we might never have discovered. How much wiser many of us are today because we've sought God and His wisdom in our trials.

Your search for wisdom begins and ends with God. Conclude your study by turning to the Lord in prayer, focusing your thoughts on His words from Scripture. As you seek the Lord, He instills His wisdom in you. Through Jesus, you'll see life as God sees it, and you'll respond to life's challenges as He would have you respond.



## A FINAL PRAYER

*Thank You, Father, for the things that can be learned from Job's ancient journal. Thank You for putting black print on white pages in a language I can understand. Thank You for capturing my attention by these surprising thoughts—like suffering being a friend, rather than an enemy. Like challenges in life being a pathway to knowing You. Help me to sense Your presence and see You more clearly through my suffering. In Christ's name. Amen.*

## ENDNOTES

1. Compiled from Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (New York: Pocket Books, 1963).
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Marshall F. Davis in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2002, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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