

## **January 22 — In His Hands**

### **READ**

Job 12:1-14:22

Job 12:10, *"In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."*

### **THINK**

Have you ever felt like the world was spiraling out of control? Made a plan only to be derailed by unforeseen circumstances? Been blindsided by betrayal, tragedy, or unexpected challenges?

Oftentimes, we act as though a white-knuckled grip on our lives will bring us safety and security. We put our trust in money and man-made institutions and then wonder why we're constantly crippled with worry and fear of the future.

We weren't made to shoulder the weight of all life's problems on our own! We were created to be vessels for God's purpose — to enjoy Him, love Him, and share Him with others. We can trust God to take the reins because, in reality, He already *is* in control. He has our best interest at heart, and He is the only One powerful enough to hold the world's future in His hands. He cares for us and will accomplish His will, no matter the circumstances!

### **PRAY**

Dear Lord, Thank You for being in control. I accept my life's difficulties, knowing You will use them to accomplish Your purpose. I give my life, troubles, and worries all to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## January 23 — Healing Words

### READ

Job 15:1-18:21

Job 17:10, *“As for all of you, come back with a better argument, though I still won’t find a wise man among you.”*

### THINK

If you’ve ever watched Charlie Brown, you may recall hearing the teacher say, “Wah, wah, wah, wah, wah.” It’s like the sound we hear when we’re seeking words of comfort, but instead, we receive platitudes or condemnation for perceived transgressions. Perhaps it’s what Job heard, too, as his “friends” suggested that unconfessed wrongdoings were the source of his hardships. These must have been who the writer of Proverbs spoke of in Proverbs 12:18 when he wrote, “The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Life is challenging. We look for answers to life’s issues everywhere. But we must seek the words of the wise if we hope to find true healing. Words that remind us that God, our Creator, sees us, hears us, loves us, and cares for us deeply. Remind someone of that truth today. Perhaps it will bring healing to them also.

### PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your unconditional love, grace, and mercy. Lead me to those who can remind me of Your unfailing faithfulness and help me to do the same for others. Let my words bring healing to someone else’s life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## January 24 — Think Outside the Box

### READ

Job 19:1-21:34

Job 19:28-29, *“How dare you go on persecuting me, saying, It’s his own fault? You should fear judgment, for your attitude deserves punishment. Then you will know there is indeed a judgment.”*

Job 21:34, *“How can your empty cliches comfort me? All your explanations are lies!”*

### THINK

Why do bad things happen to good people? The answer to this quintessential question: Life isn’t fair! This is the argument Job was having with his friends. They believed God only brought down wrath on the wicked. Therefore, Job *must* have done something to deserve such dire circumstances. But Job, in his weakened state, stood firm and said, “Your argument doesn’t fit the facts!” And the fact is, good things also happen to bad people!

God shines grace on the righteous and unrighteous alike because grace isn’t earned; it’s a gift. Thus, Job’s friends’ theology didn’t square with the truth. They, like so many of us today, put God in a box. Even when we think we have a clear understanding of God, we can’t predict His actions.

It’s time to think outside the box. Trying to rationalize God’s actions is futile. Instead, get to know God’s heart so that you can trust Him even when you don’t understand His actions.

### PRAY

God, You are a limitless God! Your ways are higher than mine, and I stand in awe of Your power. But even more importantly, I trust You. Give me the discernment to look beyond my circumstances toward greater understanding, acceptance, and intimacy with You. Amen.

## January 25 — **THEY**

### **READ**

Job 22:1-25:6

Job 23:11-12, *"For I have stayed on God's paths; I have followed His ways and not turned aside. I have not departed from His commands, but have treasured His words more than daily food."*

### **THINK**

Do you have people in your life who uplift, encourage, and help strengthen your relationship with God? Or, is your life filled with people who constantly tear you down, discourage you, and keep you from growing closer to God?

Job was in the middle of fighting human judgment versus what he knew to be true about God. Job's "friends" were trying to lead him astray instead of leading him to God. These "friends" thought Job was deserving of his circumstances. But in this pivotal time in his life, he didn't let their accusations turn him against God. Instead, he ultimately went to the One who knew everything about him.

Who are your friends? Take a "friend-ven-tory" and see if you have the right kind of "THEY" in your life. Are they **Tough**, **Honest**, **Encouraging**, and **Yielded to Christ**? If not, ask God to provide the right people in your life!

### **PRAY**

Dear God, Even amid my trials, help me to seek out the right kind of people in my life. I pray that **THEY** help lead me closer to You and point me to Your truth. Amen.

## January 26 — Where Does Understanding Dwell?

### READ

Job 26:1-29:25

Job 28:20,23-24, *“Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? God understands the way to it and He alone knows where it dwells, for He views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.”*

### THINK

When faced with hardship, we often ask every question imaginable. But, ultimately, we end at “Why?” We long for an audible voice, a message in the sky, a clear sign that will lead us to the answers we long for. But wisdom and understanding are often elusive as we run through options, possibilities, and our own limited reasoning.

God doesn’t always tell us why, but He is always trustworthy. In Job’s case, God allowed hardship to come. Job wasn’t privy to the big picture — nor did he know the blessings to come — but he chose to trust God. Despite everything he’d lost and endured, he trusted in who he knew God to be.

What are you struggling with to understand today? What big picture question are you uncertain about and searching for answers to? Whatever it is, rely on God’s wisdom and trust that He is at work in your life — even though the solution is beyond your grasp!

### PRAY

Lord, Help me recognize true wisdom comes from You, alone. Please give me discernment and understanding today, that my life and my actions may be a LIGHT that brings You glory. Amen.

## January 27 — God Hears

### READ

Job 30:1-40

Job 30:20, *"I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer."*

### THINK

Depression can hit like a ton of bricks. Negative thoughts dominate your mind, and the downward spiral intensifies into utter darkness. In today's reading, despair enveloped Job and came over him like a thick fog. All he saw was hopelessness.

When you're in a pit of despair, you feel miserable. Your cry to God may seem like it's muffled in the shadows and whisked away by the wind. You may feel all alone, curled up in the dark corners of your mind. But even if you can't hear His voice or feel His presence, He is still there.

If you pray and speak the languishing words of your broken heart, He listens. When you come before Him and speak the raw truth of your brokenness, something supernatural happens. He speaks through the Holy Spirit within you, and hope returns.

Circumstances may not change instantly, and you may still face your giants, but the Holy Spirit will empower you not only to carry on but to prevail.

### PRAY

Lord, Open my ears so I can hear Your voice. Keep me teachable so I may grow closer to You. Restore the abundant hope of Jesus in me and heal my broken spirit. Amen.

## January 28 — Age Before Wisdom?

### READ

Job 32:1-34:37

Job 32:8, *“But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.”*

### THINK

Some people think wisdom only comes with age. "The older, the wiser," right? It seems to make sense, too; after all, the more you've lived, the more you've learned. But the Bible tells us true wisdom comes from God alone, not the passage of time.

The Spirit compelled Elihu to speak. Despite being the youngest and least educated person there, a word of wisdom was put on his heart to remind Job that God is greater. We can't accuse Him of treating us "unfairly," for He offers a redemption we don't deserve and a grace we could never earn.

Elihu spoke when prompted by the Spirit. Will you do the same? God's not limited by the physical age of those He chooses to speak through. All He requires is an open heart and a willingness to obey His commands.

### PRAY

Lord, I ask for Your wisdom and guidance. May Your Spirit place words on my heart that they might overflow to others. Amen.