

# When You Are Hurting

<sup>1</sup>In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. <sup>2</sup>He had seven sons and three daughters, <sup>3</sup>and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. (Job 1:1-3)

**Decide to trust God, no matter what!**

<sup>20</sup>At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup>and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." (Job 1:20,21)

<sup>9</sup> His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9)

<sup>15</sup>Though he **slay** me, yet will I trust him. (Job 13:15 NIV)

<sup>15</sup>Behold, he will slay me; I have no hope; yet I will defend my ways to his face. (Job 13:15 RSV)

- Faith is honest but stubborn
- Our pain can lie to us
- Pain does not change the fact that:
  - God created you and loves you;
  - There is nothing impossible for Him;
  - He will never leave you or forsake you;
  - He will finish what He has started in you.

- **Here is what Satan cannot do:**

- He cannot touch you beyond what God allows;
- He cannot take you out of God's hand;
- He cannot change the fact that 'in Christ' you are a new creation;
- He cannot avoid his ultimate destiny - he loses and we win!

## Don't isolate yourself

- ▶ *Job 2:11-13*

## Never give up!

<sup>32</sup>"He is not a mere mortal like me that I might answer him, that we might confront each other in court. <sup>33</sup>If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, <sup>34</sup>someone to remove God's rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more. (*Job 9:32-34*)

- ▶ *I Timothy 2:5,6a*
- ▶ *Romans 5:8-9*

"The real sting of suffering is not misfortune itself, not even the pain or the injustice of it, but the apparent god-forsakenness of it. Pain is endurable, but the seeming indifference of God is not. Sometimes we picture him lounging, perhaps dozing, in some celestial deck chair, while the hungry millions starve to death . . . The Cross smashes to smithereens this terrible caricature of God. We are not to envisage him on a deck chair, but on a cross. The God who allows us to suffer, once suffered himself in Christ . . . The Cross of Christ is the proof of God's personal, loving solidarity with us in our pain." (*John Stott, The Cross of Christ*)

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

. . . <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (*Romans 8:35,37*)