

Attention: Where is God when you are at your seemingly lowest point of life. When a marriage of 25 years of a believing spouse collapsed, they sought the Lord but could not find Him, only to end in divorce. A man accidentally kills his only son and wonders, where was God during his tragedy. A pastor is hit in a collision in a car accident and is pinned in and burned alive. His wife is left devastated, angry, and confused. “Where was God,” she exclaims!

Need: When humanity is going through divine processes, you often wonder why Jesus doesn’t just step in and deliver you. As a matter of fact, you are confident that He will vindicate you if you can contact Him. God knows what you are up against, but He also knows what is required to maximize your faith. Do you pray to God for strength to endure your trial, or do you simply cry to God to make the trial go away? Every test that the believer is going through is meant to strengthen them for amazing moments ahead. God wants to prosper you, but you must endure.

Background: Job 23 takes place in the middle of the Book of Job, during one of the most intense sections of dialogue between Job and his three friends—Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. By this point in the story, Job has already endured catastrophic loss: his wealth is gone, his children have died, and his body is afflicted with painful disease. Instead of comforting him, his friends have increasingly accused him, insisting that his suffering must be the result of hidden sin. Job 23 is specifically a response to Eliphaz’s third speech, where Eliphaz sharply accuses Job of injustice and calls him to repent. In this chapter, Job does not confess wrongdoing—instead, he longs for the opportunity to stand before God and defend his integrity.

At the heart of the chapter is Job’s agonizing sense of God’s absence. He describes searching for God in every direction—forward, backward, left, and right—but being unable to find Him. This is not the cry of unbelief, but of desperate faith. Earlier in the book, Job wrestled with despair over his suffering, even wishing for death, but here his focus has shifted—he wants God more than relief. The pain of not sensing God’s presence becomes greater than the pain of his circumstances. This highlights a key biblical theme: that even the most faithful believers can experience seasons where God feels hidden.

Yet in the middle of that struggle, Job makes a powerful declaration of faith in verse 10: though he cannot find God, he affirms that God knows exactly where he is. Job declares that when he has been “tried,” he will come forth as gold, drawing on the imagery of refining precious metals. In the ancient world, gold was purified through fire, which removed impurities without destroying the substance itself. Job interprets his suffering not as punishment, but as [a refining process](#). This statement stands as one of the strongest expressions of faith in the entire book—he trusts in God’s awareness and purpose even when he lacks understanding.

Overall, Job struggles with God’s apparent silence and absence. This lack of explanation makes his faith all the more remarkable. Job 23 ultimately shows that it is possible to seek God honestly, question deeply, and still cling to trust. It is the voice of someone who refuses to abandon God, even when he cannot find Him, holding onto the conviction that though God feels hidden, He is still present, still aware, and still at work.

1. Seeking God to No Avail.

- a. Job pursues God and cannot find Him; he backtracks and still cannot find God.
 - i. *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.”* (Psalm 27:1–4, NKJV).
- b. Trials bring you closer to Christ—do you pray for endurance or disappearance?
- c. You have prayed, fasted, wrote down the vision, but change is coming.
- d. Seeking God means giving Him first place in your life—priority.

2. God’s Silence is Not His Absence.

- a. Job is desperate for God so he consistently seeks His presence.
 - i. Christians are commanded to seeking God continually.
 1. Some turn from faith when trouble comes.
 - ii. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV).
- b. There is a guarantee in finding God.
 - i. Finding God is best in prayer, His Word, and with a heart of expectation.
 - ii. *“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”* (Jeremiah 29:12–13, NKJV).
- c. Seeking God is action-oriented: turn from wicked ways and wicked people.
 - i. *“If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* (2 Chronicles 7:13–14, KJV).
- d. Don’t stop showing up because you see no results.
 - i. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33, NKJV).

3. God Tests the Faithful.

- a. Job is convinced, no matter what he endures, God will bring him through.
- b. Seeking God renews your strength in the Lord.
 - i. *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).
- c. Trials produce character and endurance—it shows your value and worth.

- i. *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*
(Romans 5:3–4, NKJV).
- d. Look for meaning and renewal in your trial.