



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Job Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: Dependence Declared
Sermon Title: "When the Light Bulb Comes On"
Passage: Job 42:1-6

Connection to Job 42

After being confronted by God, Job understood that God was sovereign over his entire life. Job not only gained a correct perspective about God, but he grew in his understanding and relationship with Him.

Introduction/Opening

Each person has times when they immediately understand something to be true. These times are often described with the saying, "the light bulb turned on." Many things, like learning an instrument, involve a process of learning over time. However, other realizations feel immediate, such as a perspective learned when reading a Bible passage or a piece of advice from a parent that suddenly makes sense. In Job 42, we see the "light bulb turning on" in Job's heart.

Job has a conversation with God that elicited an almost immediate "light bulb" moment when he realized his faulty thinking, the ultimate truth of God's perspective, and the errors in his friend's advice.

Outline

I. God is in control (vv. 1-2).

Most believers naturally and almost reflexively admit that they believe God is able to "do anything," but when put in compromising and difficult situations, they act as if they in control. Job understood after God confronted him that only the Lord is truly in control and none of His plans can be thwarted (v. 2).

God is sovereignly over all aspects of human life. Even though we may commit actions that are sinful and grieve God's heart, ultimately, God's objectives will be accomplished.

II. God's perspective is wonderful (v. 3).

We must keep God's words readily at hand to combat the erroneous competing perspectives that are contrary to God's laws. Knowing Scripture keeps the heart of believers from acting ignorantly and draws us to repentance. We should make it a consistent practice to know, pray through, and meditate on Scripture.

We can speak and act inconsistently with God's purposes and values when we fail to understand Scripture or twist it for our own purposes. Job said he spoke about things he didn't understand (v. 3). Obviously, believers do not understand all passages perfectly. It is natural for us to grow in our understanding of Scripture over time; however, Job exercised humility and recognized God's perspective is ultimately correct and repented of his previous actions and statements.

Job understood God's perspective as not only correct but wonderful. This is the mark of a truly repentant and mature believer. Jesus' perspective is both perfect and wonderful. The mature believer recognizes God's perspective may be beyond our momentary understanding and far greater than our limited perspective. When we live in light of His sovereignty, we are humbly valuing God's long-term purposes as more wonderful than our own.

III. Hearing Versus Seeing (vv. 4-6)

Job recognized knowing about God is not the same as having a growing relationship with Him. Job acknowledges he "heard" about God but had a heart transformation after his encounter with Him (v. 5). The use of the word "reports" can be described as hearsay and not personal, while the word "seen" indicates truth and intimacy. Job's experience with God brought him from a place of uncertainty to one of clarity.

Job correctly states, "I am dust and ashes" instead of debating or arguing with God (v. 6). Job does not merely acknowledge wrongdoing. Job repents by changing his life. Repentant believers acknowledge wrong and are willing to live changed lives.

Conclusion

Having moments when the "light bulb goes on" are exciting because they lead us to new and fresh places of understanding and growth in our relationship with Jesus. Sometimes, however, having the "light bulb turn on" may force us to re-evaluate our understandings of God or His Word. When God speaks powerfully to us, we need to recognize God is in control of the situation, that His perspective is both correct and wonderful, and acceptance and repentance should be the natural response.

Is God showing Himself as sovereign in your life? Are you seeing His perspective as wonderful, and are you genuinely repenting? Today follow Job's example and turn to Christ.

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