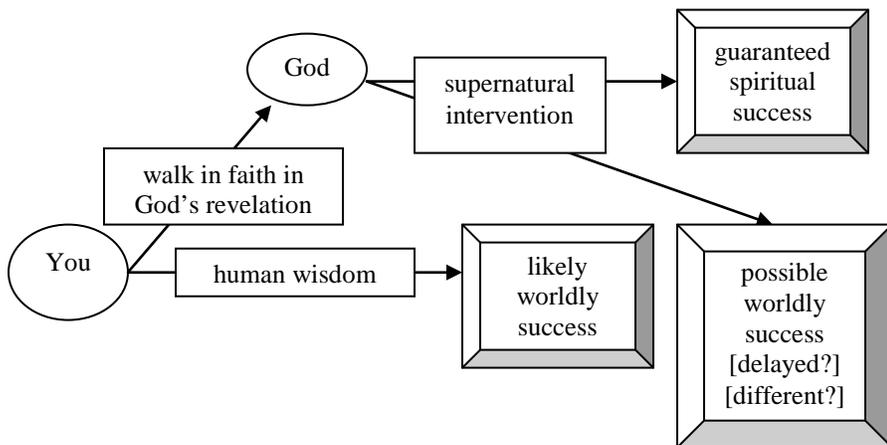


Thoughts from Job

by Will Groben

You have two choices: you can operate on human wisdom or God's revelation.



Whatever you want in this world – money, power, success, popularity, sex, whatever – chances are that you can figure out a way to get it. You can use human wisdom and achieve your goals. However, that method often involves sin, either doing something wrong [like lying] or not adapting your life to God's priorities and goals.

The other option is to walk in faith, praying about what you want, and then – instead of acting on human wisdom – acting on what you find in God's Word. God might give you what you want; but he might not; or he might change it in some unforeseeable way; or he might delay acting for some time. So doing things God's way makes worldly success less certain in some ways; but what it guarantees you is spiritual blessing: greater intimacy with God, greater treasures in Heaven, greater spiritual growth, plus whatever worldly blessings you do get are what God wants you to have.

Satan thought Job was a worldly kind of guy, and that he would curse God once things got tough. Job really was a spiritual guy, he walked in faith, but he didn't understand that sometimes there is a delay in God's justice.

- † Job knew well what he believed, so that hard times didn't change him. As Christ followers, we need to learn our Bible well, to strengthen our faith, so that hard times don't change us. It is easy to act right when things are going well, but the true measure of your character is how you act when times are tough.
- † We have to trust God and continue to act in faith and obedience, no matter what happens. When we struggle in life and struggle to understand God, we should stay hopeful and faithful, and keep doing what we know is right, trusting God to do the same.
- † We have no right to challenge God's sovereignty or question God's righteousness. God's purposes are beyond the understanding of humans.
- † We need to be open to God changing us. When God showed him he was wrong, Job repented.
- † We can trust that God will use all things [even painful, tragic things] for the good of those who love him. From his experience, Job learned about and appreciated God more, and he gained humility.