

Title: Seeking God Beyond Prosperity: Lessons from Job's Suffering

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the book of Job to challenge believers to examine whether they truly seek to know God personally or merely seek His blessings. The pastor emphasizes that many Christians, like Job, know God primarily through prosperity and righteousness but fail to develop a deep relationship that sustains them through devastation and disappointment. Drawing parallels between Job's confusion and modern Christianity, the message warns against the danger of only seeking God for what He can provide rather than for who He is. The sermon calls believers to move beyond transactional faith to genuine adoration, preparing them to remain faithful regardless of circumstances, whether prosperity or tribulation. The pastor challenges the American church's comfort-driven spirituality and encourages persistent seeking of God through asking, seeking, and knocking—not for material gain but for intimate knowledge of the Father.

Key Points:

- God's Word is powerful and active, blessing those who read, hear, and take it to heart, even when we don't fully comprehend it
- Job sought God in prosperity and righteousness but wasn't prepared to seek Him in devastation and disappointment
- Many Christians seek God's favor, blessings, and wisdom when needed, but fail to seek God simply because they love and adore Him
- Knowing things about God is not the same as personally knowing God—Jesus warned some would claim works done in His name yet He never knew them
- The American church may be spiritually weak because believers have only known God in relative comfort, not through genuine hardship
- Jesus demonstrated persistent seeking of God even unto death, sweating blood in prayer and maintaining faith through crucifixion
- We must ask, seek, and knock continually—not just for blessings but to know God's perspective and become the bride worthy of Christ's return
- The early church transformed the world because believers didn't care

about earthly possessions, knowing heaven was their true home

- When we praise God in difficulties rather than blame Him, the enemy loses his grip and must flee
- We should pray for all leaders, not just those we agree with, recognizing God places all authorities in power for His purposes

#### Scripture Reference:

- Revelation 1:3 - Blessed is the one who reads, hears, and takes to heart the words of prophecy
- Revelation 22:12-21 - Jesus coming soon with His reward, warnings about adding or removing from Scripture
- Job 21-23 - Job's complaint about the prosperity of the wicked and his friends' accusations
- Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is living, active, and sharper than a double-edged sword
- Matthew 7 - Jesus warning those who did works in His name but He never knew them

#### Stories:

- The pastor's grandfather's faith during the Great Depression, when rubber and gasoline were rationed and families relied on gardens for survival
- World War II pilot who heard a rat chewing wires on his plane and flew to high altitude where lack of oxygen killed the rat
- The eagle that carries attacking birds to higher altitudes where they cannot breathe and must release their grip
- The parable of the vineyard owner who paid all workers the same wage regardless of hours worked, illustrating God's generosity and grace
- Reference to Christians in Iran being killed in greater numbers than anywhere else in the world, yet the gospel continues to spread
- Silly Putty illustration about how comic strips appear clear from a distance but up close are just dots, warning against over-analyzing Scripture while missing the main message