

## Dealing With Difficult Days!

"The purpose of Christianity is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate enough to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy, rather, it tries to make us great enough for life." - **James L. Christensen**

*A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battlefield and arrived at Shiloh later that same day. He had torn his clothes and put dust on his head to show his grief. Eli was waiting beside the road to hear the news of the battle, for his heart trembled for the safety of the Ark of God. When the messenger arrived and told what had happened, an outcry resounded throughout the town. "What is all the noise about?" Eli asked. The messenger rushed over to Eli, who was ninety-eight years old and blind. He said to Eli, "I have just come from the battlefield—I was there this very day." "What happened, my son?" Eli demanded. "Israel has been defeated by the Philistines," the messenger replied. "The people have been slaughtered, and your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were also killed. And the Ark of God has been captured." When the messenger mentioned what had happened to the Ark of God, Eli fell backward from his seat beside the gate. He broke his neck and died, for he was old and overweight. He had been Israel's judge for forty years. **1 Samuel 4:12-18 (NLT)***

*One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting at the oldest brother's house, a messenger arrived at Job's home with this news: "Your oxen were plowing, with the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided us. They stole all the animals and killed all the farmhands. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "The fire of God has fallen from heaven and burned up your sheep and all the shepherds. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, a third messenger arrived with this news: "Three bands of Chaldean raiders have stolen your camels and killed your servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "Your sons and daughters were feasting in their oldest brother's home. Suddenly, a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. The house collapsed, and all your children are dead. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!" In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God. **Job 1:13-22 (NLT)***

### How can we be more like Job and less like Eli?

- Compare their relationship with God.

***"Let us bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh. If we carry IT into battle with us, IT will save us from our enemies!" 1 Samuel 4:3 (NLT)***

***"Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that HE may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies." 1 Samuel 4:3 (NIV)***

***“The glory has departed from Israel FOR the Ark of God has been captured!” 1 Samuel 4:22 (NLT)***

- Compare their faith in God.

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!” Job 13:15 (NKJV)

***“But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. For I have stayed on God’s paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside. I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.” Job 23:10-12 (NLT)***

“The good news is that Jesus said He would pray for us. The bad news is that we are going to need it!” - ***John Wimber***

God Is Still Good!  
Jesus Is Still Lord!  
Holy Spirit Is Still Here!

Have Faith *IN* God  
Rely Upon Your Relationship *WITH* God