The Challenge that Every Believer Needs

Job 22:2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

A. To be profitable unto God is by God’s own power to create Praise, Honor and Glory unto His own Name through the believer.

Can a man be profitable to God on his own challenge? No, for such is the perfection of God that he cannot receive any benefit or advantage by men; what can be added to that which is infinite?

Can the light of a candle be profitable to the sun or the bucket of water to the ocean?

* Man can’t produce the glory of God by his own might and ability.

2-4 Eliphaz is accusing Job of being proud, for the suffering he was going through.

Job 22:3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?

4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment?

5 Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?

Evil-Is not thy evil, affliction-is not thy affliction, are not thy calamities procured by, and proportionable to thy sins. Affliction—is the Attack of the enemy

Ps34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Self deception and self confidence makes us serve pain and our own purposes.

Knowing and continuing in the Truth makes us free

B. No pleasure to the Lord for man to seek His own perfection.

God only desires his perfect love in the lives of those that fully surrender to Him.

All men that are fully surrendered shall be tested and proven.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**Rom. 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2Co 6:4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.

Job 22:6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.

8 But as for the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it.

9 Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.

Don’t just preach perfection while we ignore the need of the feeble.

Don’t let the feeble harden your heart towards the truth.

Love the truth

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Job 22:10 Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;

11 Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.

Compassed with snares, fear 11 Enveloped in darkness, overwhelmed with a flood

12-20 God sees the wicked and they shall be destroyed.

**Job 22:20** Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth. Righteous spared – preserved – protected wicked consumed

Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

1. Acquaint now thyself with Him.

Job 22:22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. Ps.119:11

23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

1. Receive the law from His mouth, return to the Almighty.
2. The spiritual nature of man has been so broken down; we must be built Back up.
3. Apart from the knowledge and the Grace of God we can not be built up.
4. It is in the Light of His Presence, we are built up. We are His Workmanship.

Job 22:24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

1. Thou shalt have great spiritual riches in abundance, the earthly is vainity.

Job 22:26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

1. Delight in the Almighty.

8. Access with Boldness in Prayer.

Job 22:28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

Job 17:9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Ps 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

9. God answers prayer of the man committed to Walking in the light.

10. Ministering Grace to the hearers. Save the humble--deliver the innocent.

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“went back”

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

We have a problem that many are facing right now

“many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him”

The many going back are His disciples

1. Reasons why men go back from serving God
   1. They were comparing temporal things that they could see and feel with Eternal things that they were not seeing and feeling like they thought.

*Job 22:11 Or darkness, that thou canst not see and abundance of waters cover thee*

* 1. They labored so hard for that which would perish, but when it comes to Eternal things they went away from them.

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Mat. 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

John 6:28—*Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?*

1. They did not receive His doctrine
   1. There is a Race to be won
   2. There is a Good fight to fight
   3. There is a battle to win
   4. There is a war to overcome in
   5. There is a wedding to prepare for

1Tim. 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Joel 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Mt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

**The Pure Love of God Champions the Cause**

Text: I Cor. 13:8

*What Caused it?*

* The cause is what makes something happen.
* The phrase: ‘Love will champion the cause’ is equal to the phrase: ‘Love will make it happen.’
* If love is not the cause of something happening, then the results will always prove to be disastrous.

1Pe 5:5 ¶ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1. **Love and Knowledge in God are Perfect**
2. Love and light are expressions of the Divine.
3. God is Love. I John 4:8,16
4. God is Light.
5. God knoweth all things.
6. God loveth at all times.
7. Love and knowledge provide us with twin guidance.

One without the other and we are lost.

I Cor. 13:1

* Though I speak, v.1
* Though I have, v.2
* Though I bestow, v.3
* V.13
* Faith - acting upon a word from God
* Hope - holding to a word from God
* Charity - God’s love flowing though you by the Spirit.

1. Eph. 4:15 ‘speaking the truth in love’ v.13 ‘unity of faith
2. Col. 1:8 ‘who also declared unto us your love in the spirit’
3. Gal. 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Faith an love working together keeps the hope of our inheritance alive.

Ro 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Phil. 1:8,20; I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ’ Phil. 2:2 ‘having the same love

“as God hath said” **God is true to His Word**

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.