

## Job's Dark Night of the Soul

Job suffered a lengthy Dark Night of the Soul, not because he was the worst of God's people in his time, but because he was the best of God's people (Job 1:8). His was the honor of proving to Satan that it was possible to love God after the material and physical blessings of God have been removed (Job 1:26-31; 2:4-5).

Job apparently was not in on the conversation between God and Satan which was part of the darkness. Job was asked to be faithful to God without the game plan. To trust that God was up to something good and that Job would be better for it once The Dark Night of the Soul turned to dawn. Job was about to learn that:

- I. **Dark Nights of the Soul shift our confidence from our assumptions that we are in control to our adoration for God, who is in control. "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted"<sup>(NIV)</sup> Job 42:2).**

To subdue the created realm so that it produces prosperously is a wonderful responsibility and gift from God (Genesis 1:26-31). However, pride enthusiastically embraces dominance beyond boundaries and the assumption that there are no limits to our control.

When Job's prosperity hemorrhaged horrifically until he was stripped of everything but his God, he could do nothing to stop it. One might think, *surely his righteous standing with God and man would provide an insurance policy against such calamity*. But it didn't. And with good reason, for Job was in school and God was the teacher and still is.

Ironically, Job became far more convinced of God's sovereignty in his bankruptcy of health and wealth, than during his previous days of pain-free prosperity. I must admit that my awareness of God's control did not greatly improve until all personal control and options were greatly diminished. Prosperity causes me to think, *look at all the marvels God has given me to enjoy and manipulate to my advantage*. Pain causes me to say with Job, **"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted"<sup>(NIV)</sup> Job 42:2**. Yes, Job's Dark Night of the Soul proved much to Job, causing him to confirmed God's sovereign control. That is one of many purposes of The Dark Night of the Soul.

**To be continued as a Pastoral Care Encouragement E-mail.**