IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE BOOK OF JOB

Introduction: 1. One of the most puzzling books in the Bible is the book of Job.
   2. It is puzzling because:
      a. It leaves us asking the question, "why?"
      b. And it really does not give us the kind of answer we want, but just says, "trust me."
   3. There are at least five questions asked in the book of Job that we ought to spend time in answering for ourselves.
   4. If we do, I believe we will be better prepared to wade through the troubles and trials of this life.

I. QUESTION ONE: "Does Any Man Serve God For Nothing?"
   A. This question was asked by Satan (1:9-10).
   B. Satan was arguing that the only reason Job was so righteous was because of the way God had blessed him.
   C. Thus, God allowed Satan to take everything away from Job.
   D. But Job answered Satan's question: "Yes, a man will serve God for nothing." (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10).
   E. We ought to take a look at our own life and ask ourselves the same question (II Corinthians 13:5).
   F. Some are more in love with prosperity and good health than with God, for when their prosperity and health wanes, their love for God wanes also.
   G. (Philippians 3:7-8).

II. QUESTION TWO: "Why Am I, A Righteous Man, Suffering?"
   A. This question was asked by Job (Job 3:1-26).
   B. Six times in chapter 3, Job asked the question "Why!"
   C. Job's despair is summarized by the following questions:
      1. "Why was I ever born?" (3:3-10).
      2. "Being born, why was I not allowed to immediately die after birth?" (3:11-19).
      3. "If I must die, why can I not die immediately?" (3:20-26).
   D. The fact that you are righteous may be the very reason why you are suffering.
      1. Who knows what good God can accomplish through your experience of suffering? (Romans 8:28).
      2. Your suffering may be the profession of faith that will make a difference in the lives of others.

III. QUESTION THREE: "Is It Not True That God Will Not Allow The
Righteous To Suffer?"
A. This question was asked by Job's friends (Job 4:1 - 31:40).
B. After a week of silence, Job's friends finally speak, and this is the line of reasoning they used.
C. They were convinced that Job had sinned, and that he needed to repent.
D. This question was answered in the above point, but keep in mind that our suffering on earth may be part of the mysterious workings of God's providence.

IV. QUESTION FOUR: "Is It Not True That Suffering Has Value In Spiritual Discipline?"
A. This question was asked by Elihu, a younger friend of Job's, who waited until the older men had given their advice (32:1 - 37:24).
B. While Elihu does not reject the reasoning used by his three friends, he does insert this additional point.
C. Suffering does have spiritual benefits.
   1. It helps one to set priorities and attain proper values.
   2. It enables one to better know himself.
   3. It helps one to be thankful and more conscious of God's blessings.

V. QUESTION FIVE: "Can A Mere Man Be A True Judge Of God's Activity?"
A. This question was asked by God, Himself (Job 38:1 - 42:6).
B. No man has a platform upon which to stand in order to question or accuse God in His dealings and activities.
C. There are some limits to man's legitimate questioning of God activity, and God demonstrated that very convincingly.
D. As God's finite creation, we have no platform to question many things that God does or does not do.

Conclusion: 1. Just as Job's patience enabled him to be blessed with a double portion of prosperity, our patience and trust in God will give us "a hundredfold not in this time..., and in the world to come, eternal life." (Mark 10:30).