A misty forest scene with a winding road and trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Wish we could turn back  
time  
To the good old days**

**Don't long for "the  
good old days."  
This is not wise.**

Ecc. 7:10

**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW**

**SO MUCH SUFFERING?**

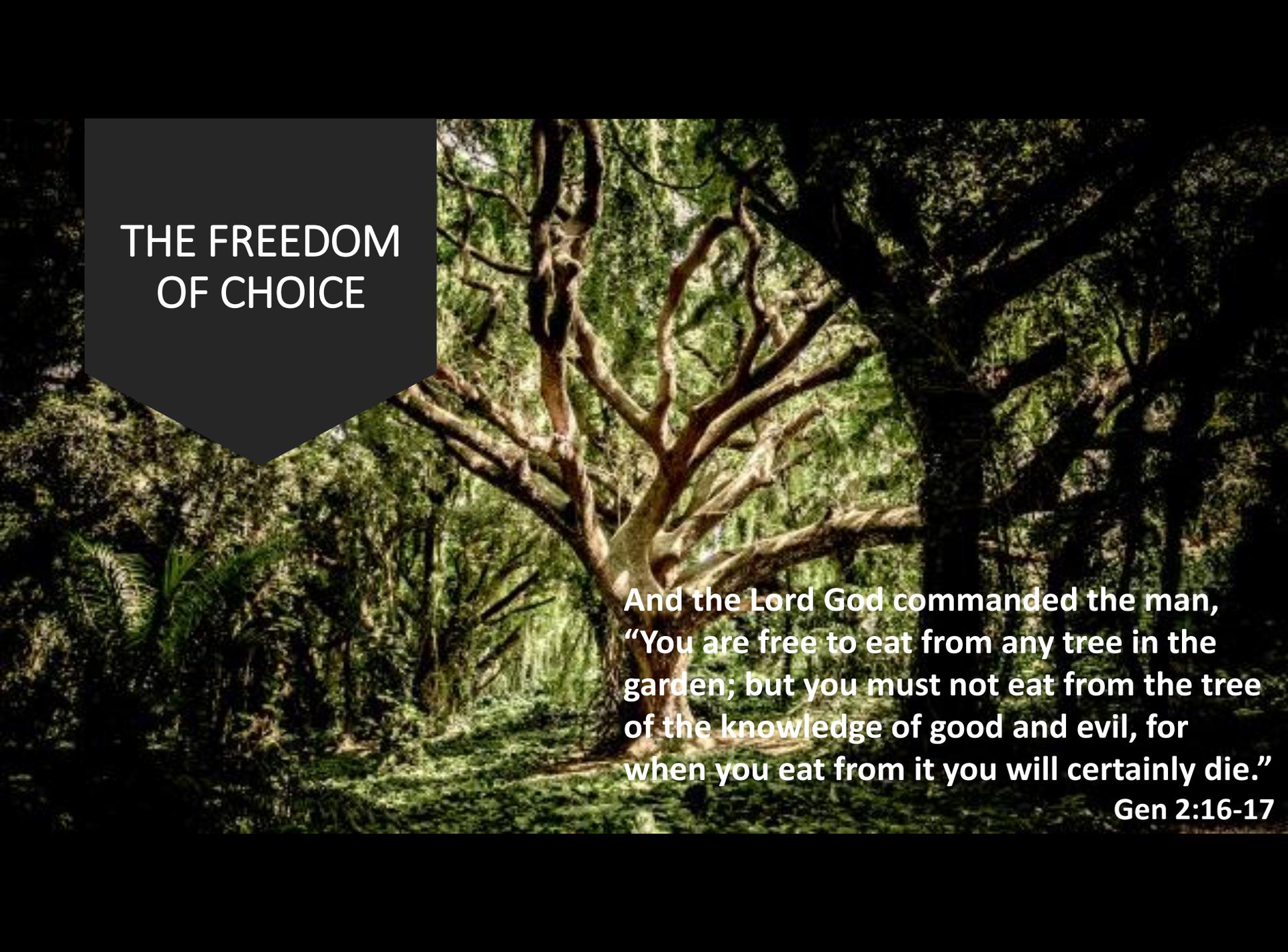




Now all has been heard; here is the  
conclusion of the matter:  
Fear God and keep his commandments,  
for this is the duty of all mankind.

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Ecc 12:13



## THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

**And the Lord God commanded the man,  
“You are free to eat from any tree in the  
garden; but you must not eat from the tree  
of the knowledge of good and evil, for  
when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

**Gen 2:16-17**



WASN'T MY FAULT!

We are accountable for our own actions!

**Seldom do our bad or sinful  
choices affect just us!**

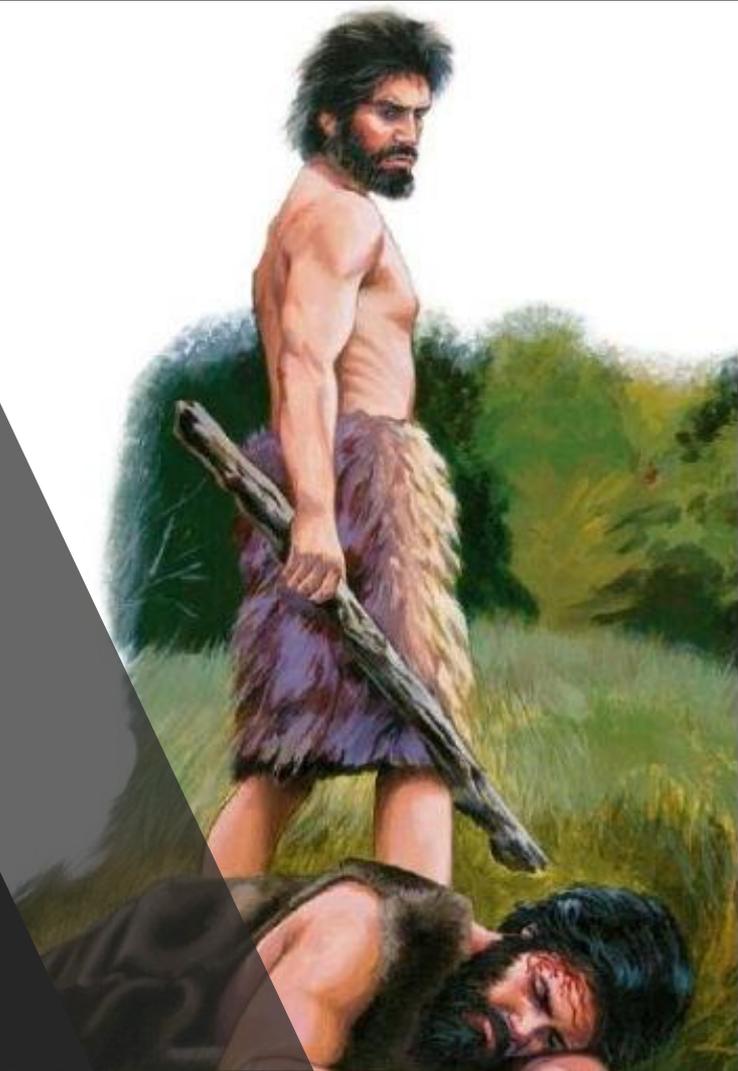




**CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES**

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THERE'S  
NOTHING NEW  
UNDER THE SUN!





It has always been that the innocent suffer because of the decisions of others

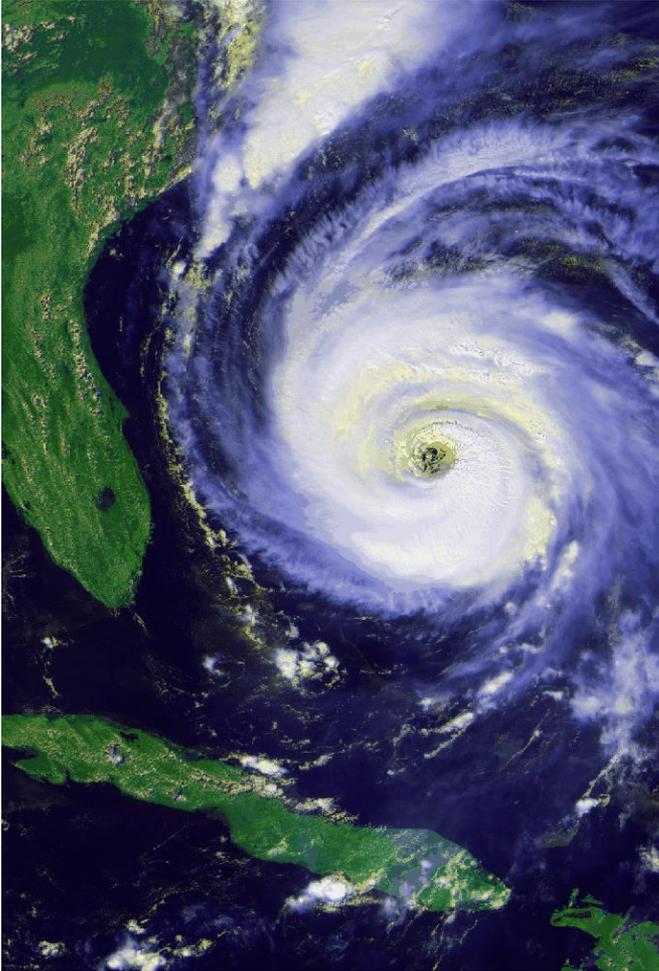


Then I saw all the bad powers that were ruling under the sun. I saw the tears of the people who were suffering under these powers, with no one to comfort them. Those who made it hard for them had the power. But the people had no one to comfort them. So I thought that those who are already dead are better off than those who are still living.

Ecc. 4:1-2

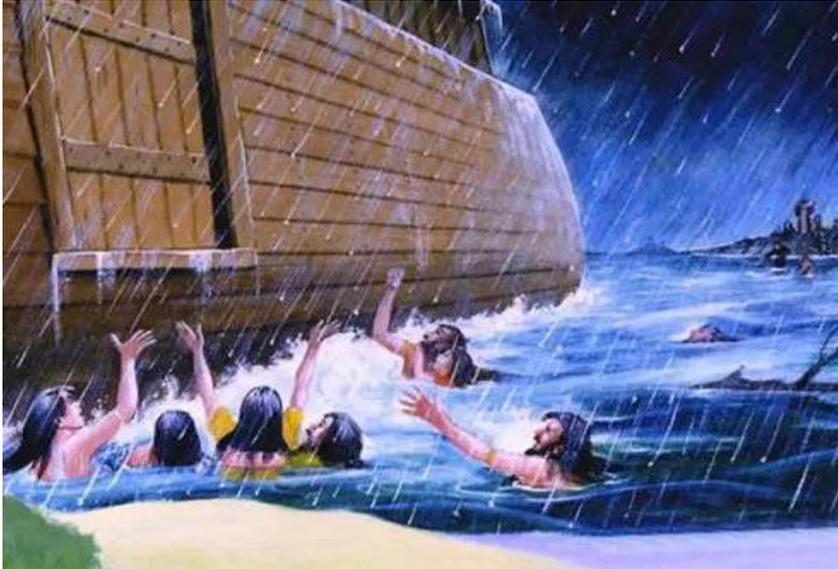
OFTEN THE PROBLEM OF  
PAIN & SUFFERING DOES  
NOT LIE ANY PLACE  
OTHER THAN WITH MAN  
HIMSELF AND THE  
DECISIONS THAT HE  
MAKES EFFECTS BOTH  
PRESENT AND FUTURE!

VIEWERS  
PLEASE



WHAT ABOUT NATURAL  
DISASTERS?

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**Then the Lord saw that man was very sinful on the earth. Every plan and thought of the heart of man was sinful always.**

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**Gen. 6:5**

CAN  
AFFLICTION IN  
LIFE BE THE  
RESULT OF  
GODLY LIVING?





**There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was without blame. He was right and good, he feared God, and turned away from sin.**

**The Lord said to Satan, “Have you thought about My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth. He is without blame, a man who is right and good. He honors God with fear and turns away from sin.”**

**Job 1:1 & 8**

## **JOB'S REACTION TO CALAMITY**

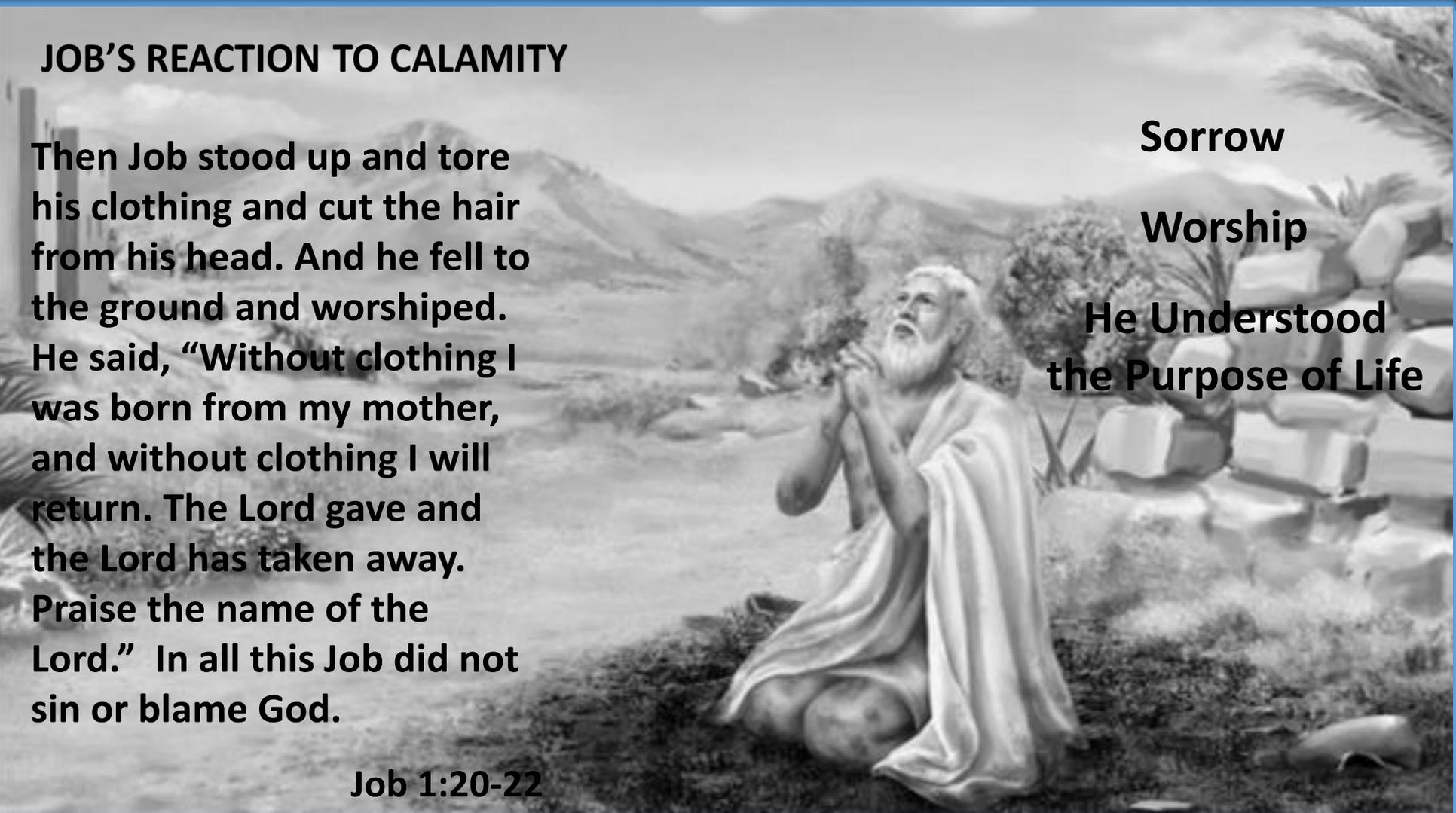
**Then Job stood up and tore his clothing and cut the hair from his head. And he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, "Without clothing I was born from my mother, and without clothing I will return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Praise the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or blame God.**

**Job 1:20-22**

**Sorrow**

**Worship**

**He Understood  
the Purpose of Life**





**Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold on to your faith?  
Curse God and die!”**

**Job 2:9**

**Even though He would kill me, yet I will trust in Him.**

**Job 13:15**



## **LESSONS FROM JOB**

- 1. Afflictions in life are sometimes the result of Godly living.**
- 2. From Job's example we learn the proper reaction to pain & suffering.**

**God allows Satan to test our integrity & faithfulness to Him.**

**No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**

**1 Cor. 10:13**

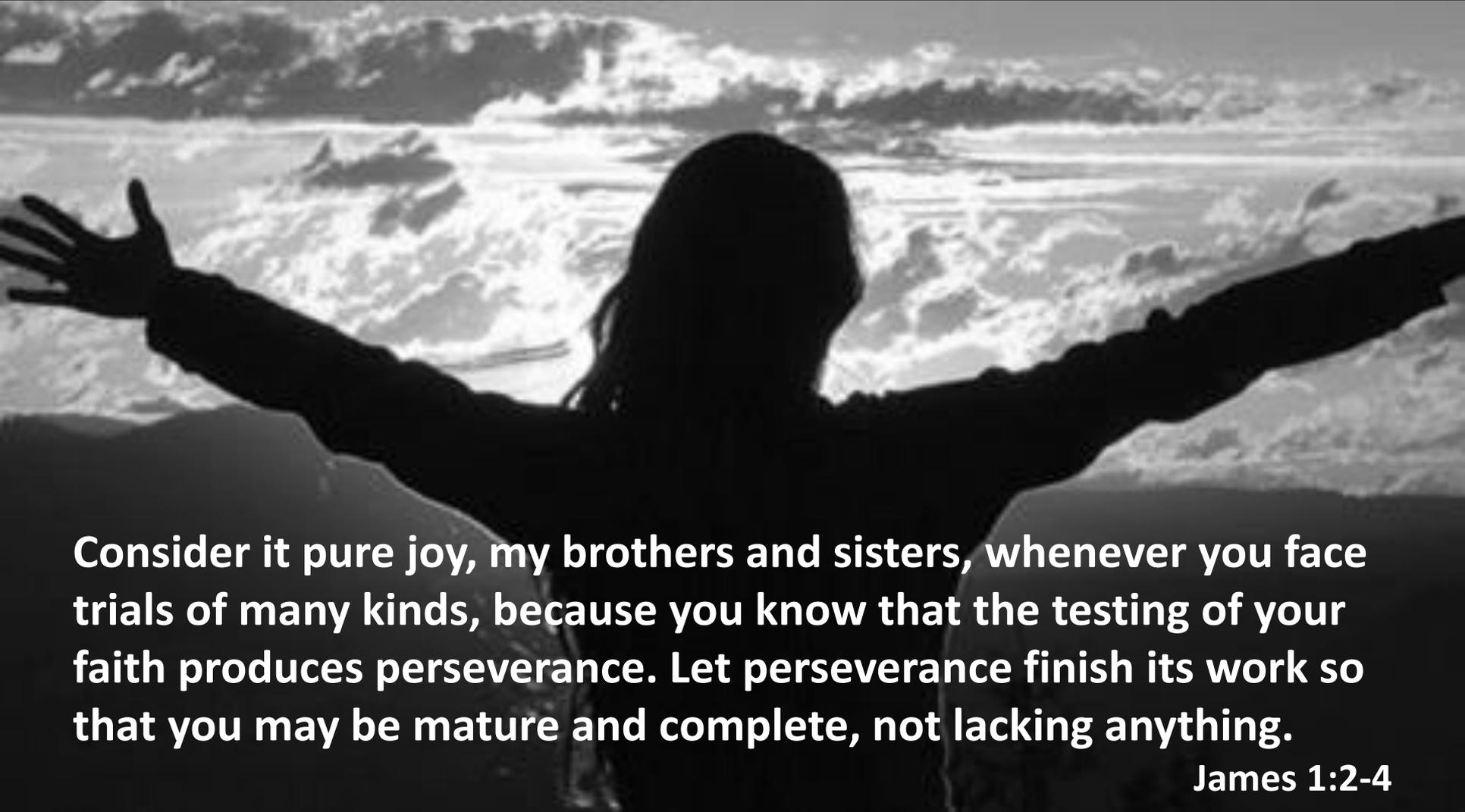
Is It Possible To  
Actually Grow  
Because of Trials  
& Temptations?



# James 1:12

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Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.



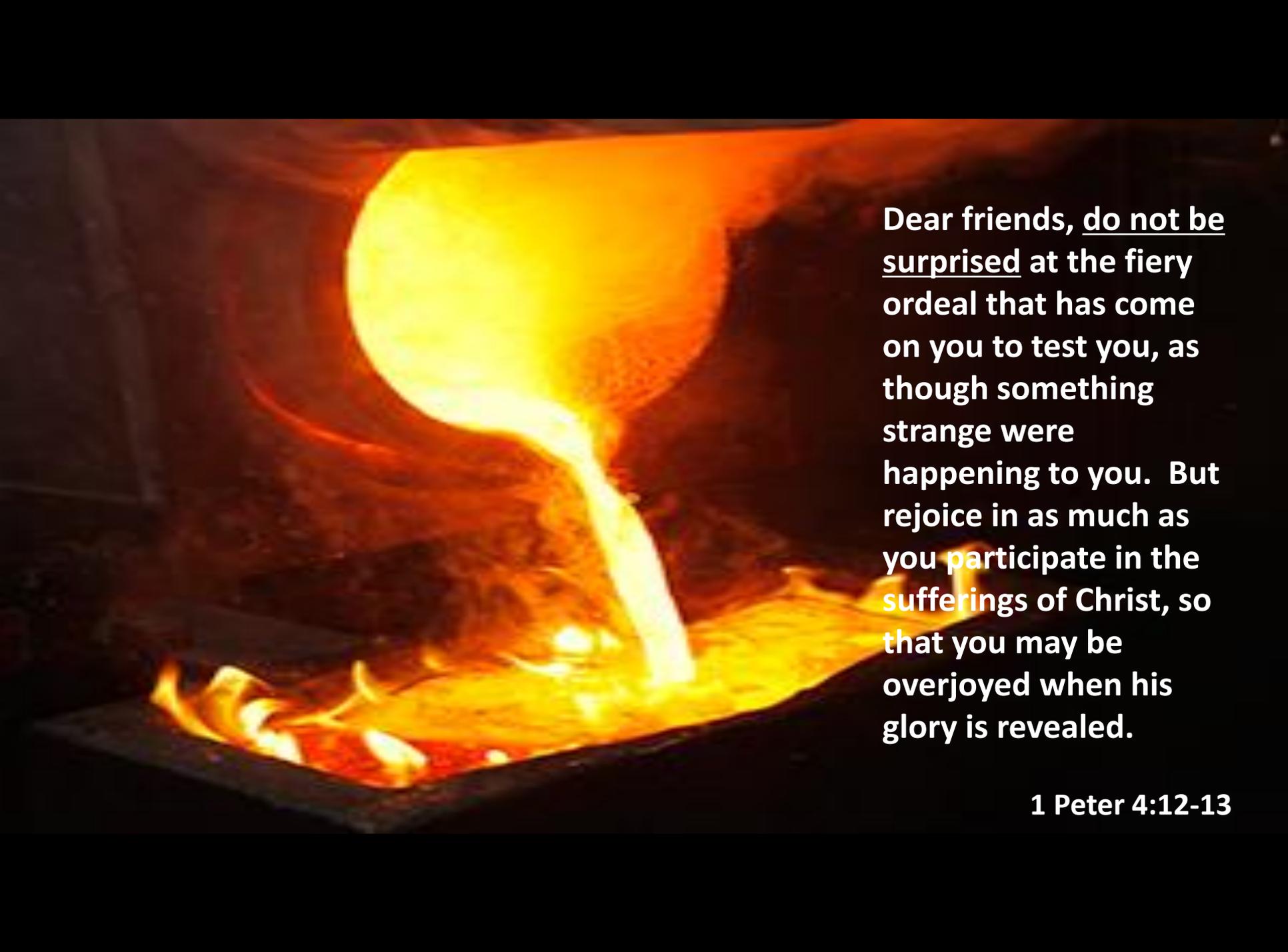
**Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

**James 1:2-4**



**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

**1 Peter 1:6-7**



Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in as much as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

# Human Pain & Suffering

1. Result of sinful choices
2. Temptations of Satan

**Why does God allow it to happen?**

## Because He loves us

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9





Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living

Luke 15:11-13



Don't you think that father knew what awaited in his son?

If so, then why did he still let him go? Didn't he love his son?

What was the father's reaction as he watched his son leave?

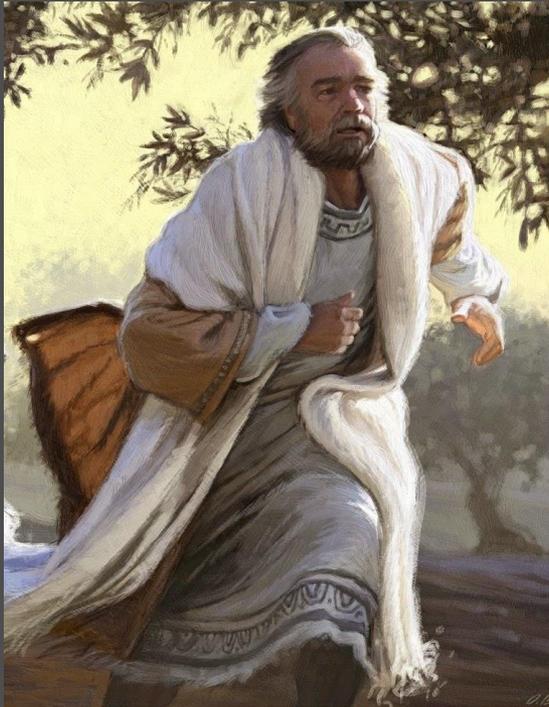
So why did he let him go?



After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Luke 15:14-18



So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he **RAN** to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:20 & 24



**So why did he let him go?**

**Because he loved him and  
he was willing anything to  
bring him to his senses!**

**How much does God love you & I?**



**God is willing to do whatever it takes for us to come to our senses and return home to Him!**

**Even the sacrificing of His Son**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**