



Lewiston Church of Christ

May 24, 2020



Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Fellowship – Joe Bieren

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee' Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

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When God Answers with Questions

*"Pain relieves us of our superficiality."
~ Terry Giboney (1939-1996).*

Terry shared the wise words above with me in 1996 before cancer took his life. He was groping for meaning in his suffering. The irony to me was that Terry was already one of the least superficial persons I knew. Yet there he was, allowing God to refine his humble heart even further.

Terry's struggle to understand his pain reminds me of Job who also groped for understanding. In desperation, Job pleaded with God for answers:

*"Why do you hide your face and consider me your enemy?
Will you torment a windblown leaf? Will you chase after dry chaff?"
(Job 13:24-25, NIV)*

Feeling like a battered leaf and dried up plant, Job saw no reason for God to drag out his torment. Perhaps you have not suffered quite like Job, but you can still relate to his questions. Toward the end of the book, God responds to Job--not with answers but with questions of His own (see Job 38-40). Here are just a few:

- *"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" (Job 38:4).*
- *"Have you ever in your life commanded the morning?" (Job 38:12).*
- *"Have the gates of death been revealed to you?" (Job 38:17).*

All good questions. But the one that hit Job the hardest was...

- *"Would you condemn Me to justify yourself?" (Job 40:8, NIV)*

Ouch! This question humbled Job to the core. There was nothing left for him but to say,

- *"Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6).*

Suffering will humble the best of us, including Job and my friend Terry. But without it, those of us living in a superficial fog would never discover what is most important—namely our primary responsibility before God to humbly repent. That turns us into clay soft enough for Him to reshape according to His will for His noble use.