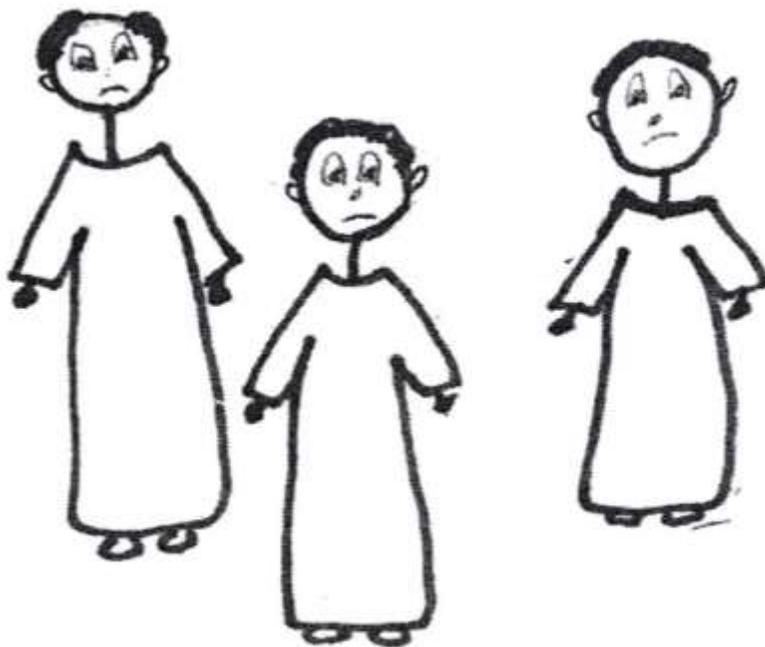
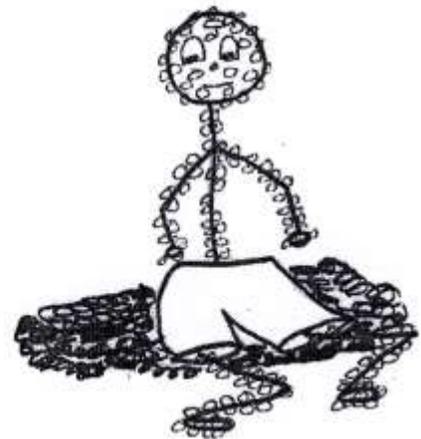
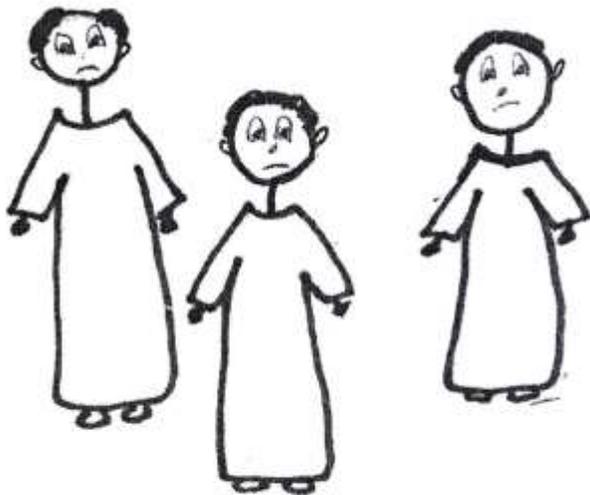


Job's Faith, Part 4  
Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar

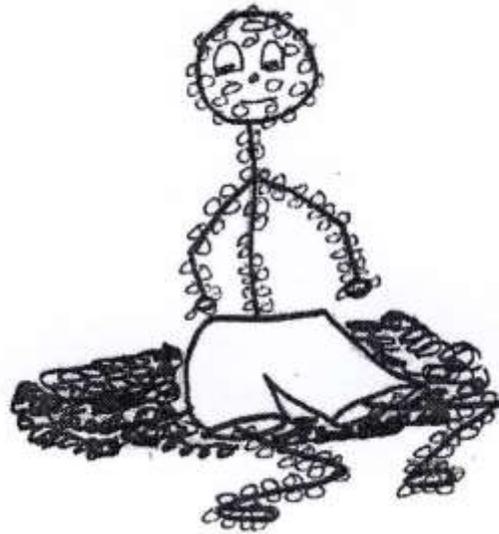
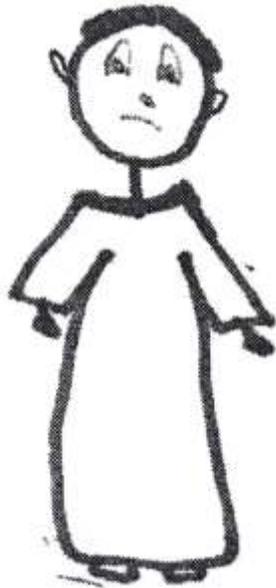
We're going to look a little closer at Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. Remember, they had good intentions, but they misapplied or misused the good doctrine they had. They thought Job had sinned and therefore had to go through this suffering. They also thought if he repented or changed his mind about the sins, God would take away the suffering and let Job prosper again. They didn't know that Job was on the witness stand as a witness for God and against Satan!



All three friends believed that the unrighteous suffer. This is true. *Psalm 32:10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked.* However, they didn't realize that the righteous suffer also. *Acts 9:16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.* Bible doctrine is only valuable when you use it on the right situation. Job was righteous and he had undeserved suffering to bring glory to God! Job's friends were missing the point!

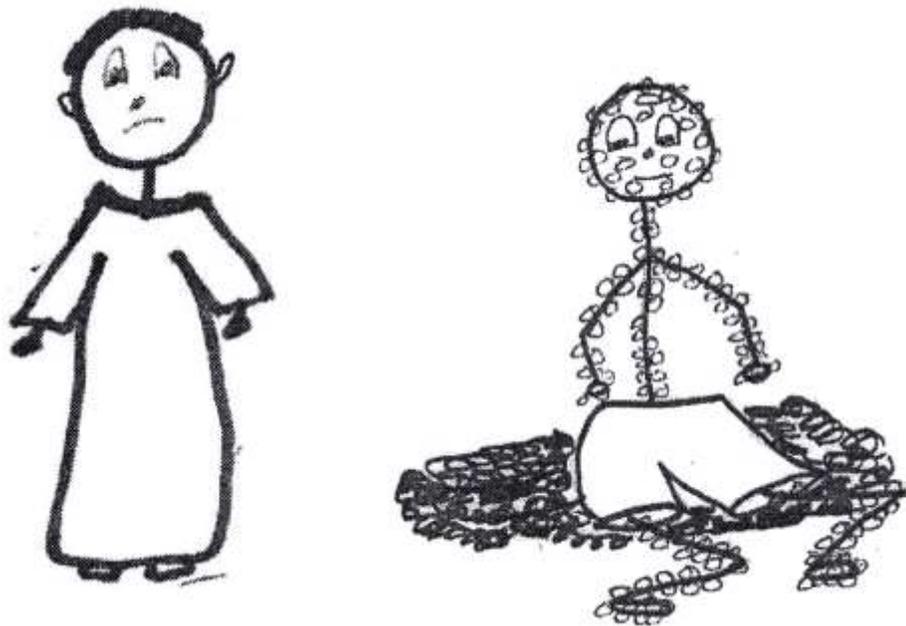


The first to speak was Eliphaz who was the oldest and considered the wisest of the three friends, Job 4-6. He starts out complimenting Job. Then he accuses Job of being impatient! (Knowing what Job had gone through, I don't think he was impatient. He was looking for an answer as to why he was suffering!) Then Eliphaz told Job that according to what he, Eliphaz, had experienced and seen in life, those who do wrong suffer. Eliphaz never experienced or saw the same suffering Job was experiencing!



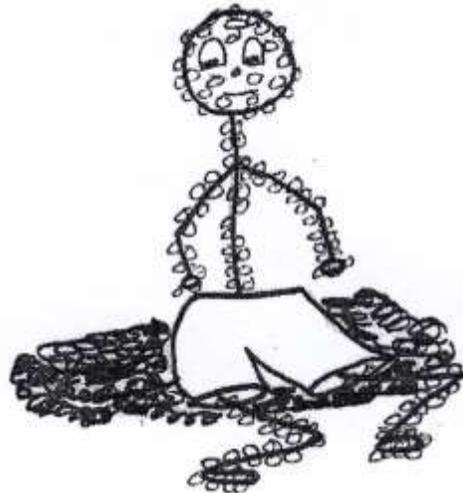
Job 1:8 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fear [respecting] God and turning away from evil."

Eliphaz thought that since Job was suffering, he must have sinned and was being disciplined. Eliphaz thought Job needed to change his thinking to be in line with God's thinking and then Job would prosper again. Eliphaz had no idea why Job was suffering and what God was thinking! Eliphaz was not as wise as he thought he was! (I've been there before, haven't you?) He claimed wisdom because of personal experience. Sound wisdom only comes through Bible doctrine. Bible doctrine gives us divine viewpoint; personal experiences don't give us divine viewpoint.



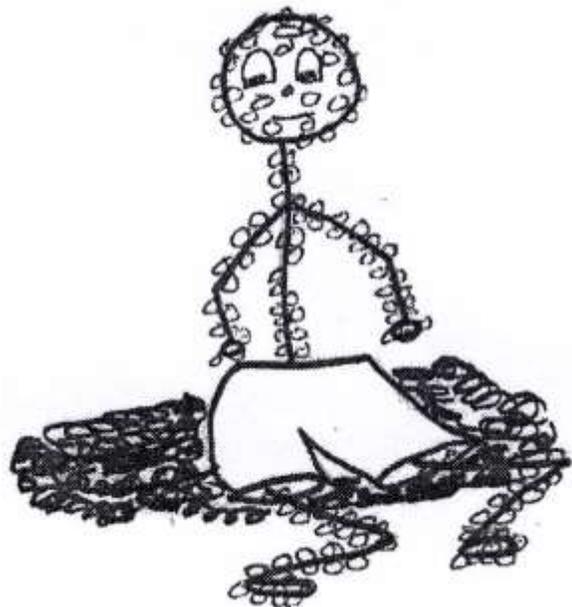
Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely [using God's word, His thinking] will be delivered.

The next to speak was Bildad, Job 8. He was pretty harsh with Job. He accused Job of being a windbag or not having anything worthwhile to say. That certainly wouldn't be very comforting! He also told Job to look at past generations, their fathers; see what happened in their lives. Bildad also took the stand that if Job was upright or had not sinned, God would not be punishing him! He even brings in Job's children, saying they were killed because of their sins! He added fuel to the fire. He wanted Job to repent so God would restore his blessings!



Matthew 12:35 The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil

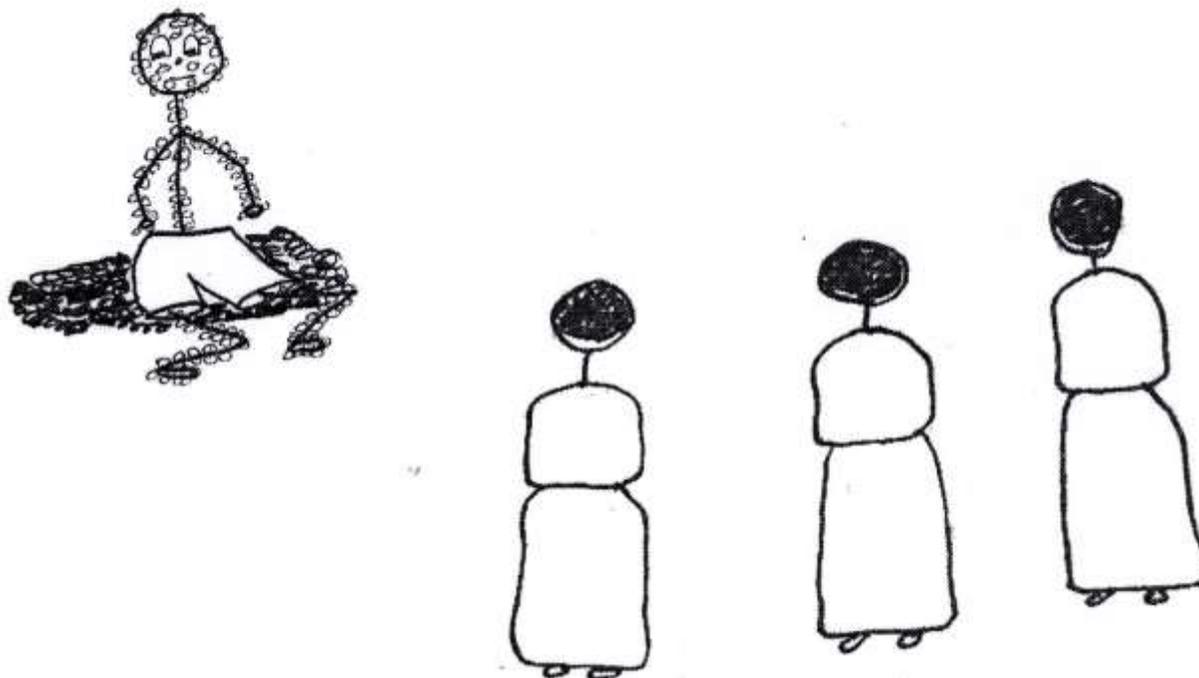
Then Zophar talked to Job, Job 11. (Watch out Job!) He was the most critical. He told Job he should be grateful that he wasn't getting what he deserved! He used sayings of that day to get his point across. They didn't even relate to Job's testing! Zophar didn't use correct Bible doctrine for the situation! He too thought Job sinned and was being disciplined. He wanted Job to repent so God would restore his blessings.



Ecclesiastes 7:14a In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider - God has made the one as well as the other....

On top of Job's suffering, he was getting people testing from Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar! He had great patience and unconditional love for his friends.\* He knew their advice was not good advice based on God's word, Bible doctrine. They were doing just what Satan wanted, giving advice that had no value! They were using their own standards instead of God's standards! Satan wanted Job to keep debating with his friends so he would get off track and agree with their false standards! Help!

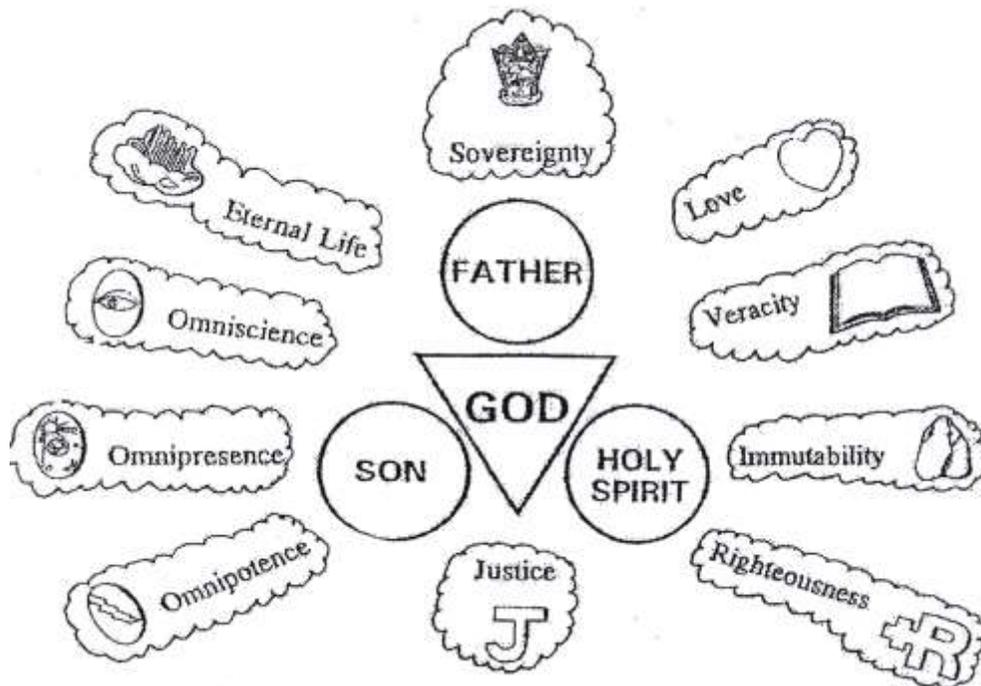
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *The Fruit of the Spirit - Part 1 and 4*.



Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

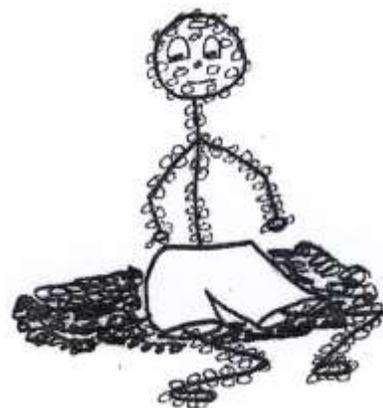
Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar agreed that God's ways are far above their ways. However, their application or using of doctrine did not go along with that thinking! They judged Job because they were fearful! They really knew Job was righteous and they thought they were also. They saw the suffering Job had and they thought they would suffer also. They saw that the righteous do suffer and they didn't want to believe that. It was too scary! They didn't realize that God wouldn't give them suffering for blessing until they had the capacity to endure it. They didn't apply the doctrine that God is sovereign and in control!\*

\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *Our God Is An Awesome God*.



Job 6:21 Indeed, you have now become such, you see a terror and are afraid.

Satan's favorite way to control us is through fear. Fear is an emotion and emotions can't think! Fear moves us away from the thinking of Christ. That is why Satan loves fear! Satan loved the friends being in fear. He thinks Job is closer to cursing God. However, Job doesn't lose faith. He doesn't use bad doctrine. He doesn't lose hope!! Even though he was cracking under pressure he was able to have courage and not fear. He was able to concentrate under pressure. He was trying to find out why he was having so much suffering. Job thought he was on trial when he was really an expert witness for God against Satan! Quite a difference in circumstances!  
 Go, Job, go!



Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

## Points to Remember

1. Job had three friends visit him, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.
2. All three friends believed that the unrighteous suffer. They denied that the righteous suffer also.
3. Eliphaz was the oldest and considered the wisest of the three.
4. Eliphaz thought that Job must have sinned and that was why he was suffering. He based his conclusion on personal experience.
5. Bildad thought Job was a windbag and was just complaining. He based his conclusion on the lives of past generations, their fathers.
6. Zophar tells Job that he should be grateful that he doesn't get the punishment he deserves. He uses sayings of the day to make his point.
7. None of the friends use Bible doctrine correctly.
8. The friends were afraid that they would suffer also since they were righteous. Therefore, they denied that the righteous suffer.
9. Satan's favorite way to control us is through fear!

## Questions for Discussion

1. Who were Job's three friends?
2. What did they believe about the righteous person and the unrighteous person?
3. Describe Eliphaz and tell what he thought about Job?
4. Describe Bildad and tell what he thought about Job?
5. Describe Zophar and tell what he thought about Job?
6. What did each of these friends have to say to Job?
7. Were they using Bible doctrine correctly?
8. Why were the friends afraid?
9. Why does Satan like us to be fearful?



## My Word Search

V F I O Q V R R D R N E G Q A  
O K E C N E D I F N O C Q G F  
D T A A F N F A I T H U E I S  
G T B F R R I G H T E O U S C  
W E U U N R I G H T E O U S L  
Q S N S E C N E I R E P X E F  
R T I E P A T I E N C E Z U N  
Z R L N R H P M T R U S T R X  
S R R D F A E B H G N S R V D  
A N X A P A T L N O G S A E T  
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K C H B A R Z H B R S A Z J U  
M Q G O M K S I Y J S Z Z M K

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BILDAD  
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JUDGE  
RIGHTEOUS  
TRUST

ELIPHAZ  
FATHERS  
GENERATIONS  
PAST  
SATAN  
UNRIGHTEOUS

*Job's Faith, Part 4*  
*Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar*

References: Eusebeia Bible Church

[www.eusebeia.org](http://www.eusebeia.org)

Lessons: May 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19 - 2010