

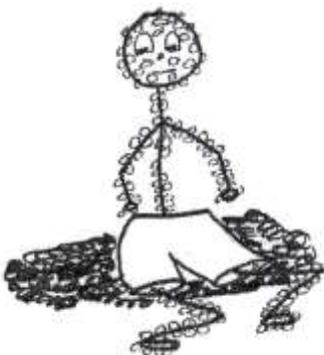
# Job's Faith

Part 5

## Elihu

Revised 10-8-2013

Job endured great suffering. He did get to a point where he cracked or felt like "enough is enough". However, he never cursed God or gave up completely. He did think God was being unfair to him. This was where his younger friend, Elihu, came on the scene. He was present when Job had his conversations with Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. He was very patient with his elders and listened to all of their conversations. He too thought Job had sinned and therefore was being disciplined. However, Elihu didn't focus on that. He saw that Job was questioning God's integrity! Job thought God was being unfair to him!



Elihu was angry because Job had tried to justify himself before God, Job 32:2. Job told God that He was unfair! Elihu slams Job for not accepting God's sovereignty. God's sovereign will is never wrong! God always wants His best for us! If we refuse to live on God's terms or according to His plan, He will not start to live on our terms or our plans! God doesn't honor the plans of man; He honors His plans in His timing! Elihu disagreed with Job that God is unfair. God is completely fair! God can't be unfair!\*

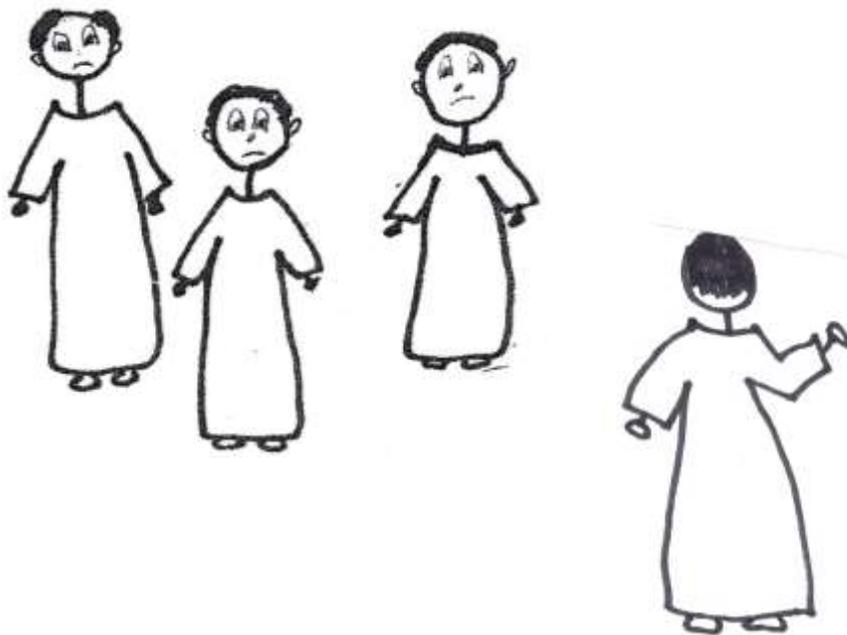
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *Our God Is An Awesome God*.



Job 33:12 Behold, let me tell you, you are not right in this, for God is greater than man.

Job 34:33a Shall He recompense on your terms, because you have rejected it?

Elihu was angry with Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar because they had found no answer to Job's suffering, yet they condemned him, Job 32:3. Elihu sees the subjectivity, self-centeredness, of the other three friends. They were dealing from emotion. They were more interested in telling Job how wise they were than in helping Job with objective thinking, divine viewpoint. Actually, they were fearful. Fear is emotional subjectivity; this is when the person is concerned only about himself. Fear stops someone from acting in virtue love toward self and others!

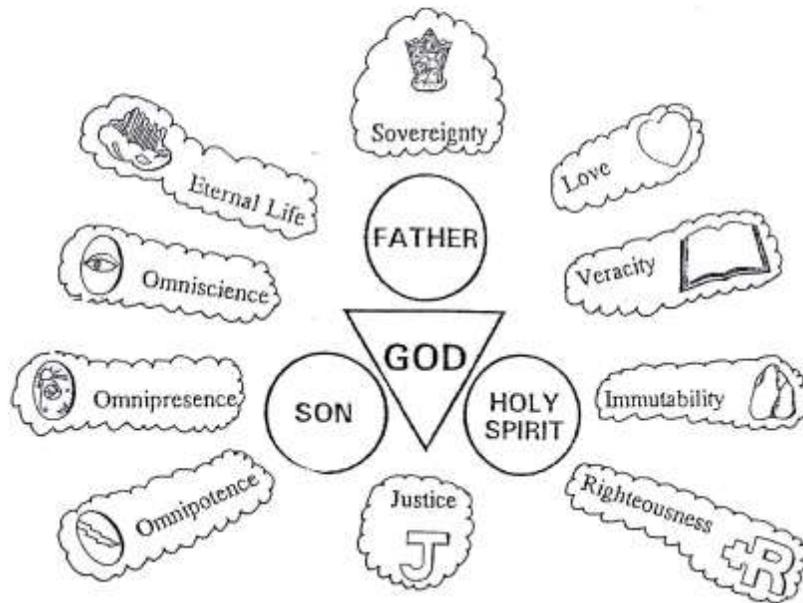


1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect [mature] love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and [in fact] the one who fears is not perfected in love.

Elihu had confidence in the doctrine he had. He knew what was right according to truth of the word of God in his soul. He was the youngest of the friends, but he had more wisdom. His wisdom was based on Bible doctrine. He led his conversation with objective thinking - thinking based on the object, Christ's thinking. He didn't care how good he sounded or if he was flattering\* or not. Elihu used divine viewpoint, God's wisdom. His confidence was in God the Almighty!

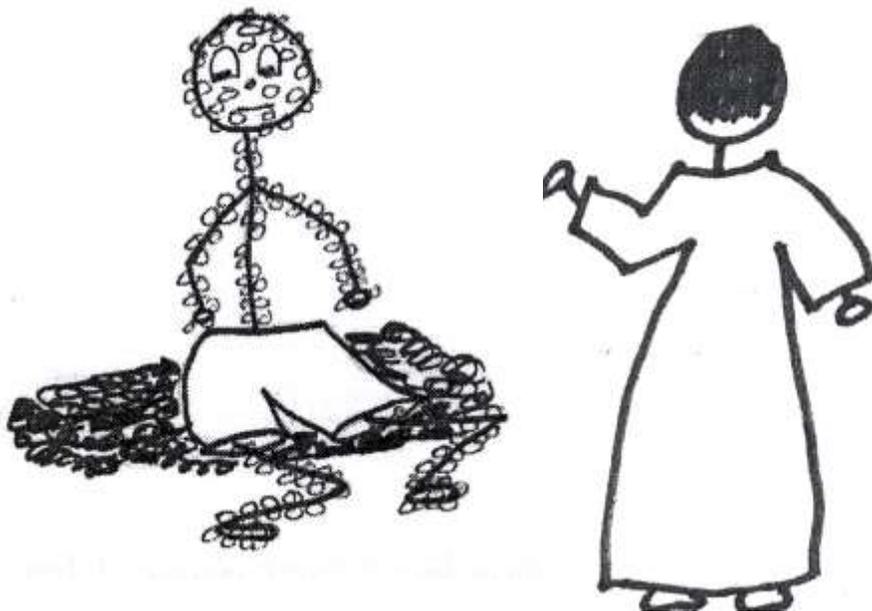
\*Flattering: trying to win favor.

### God's Divine Nature



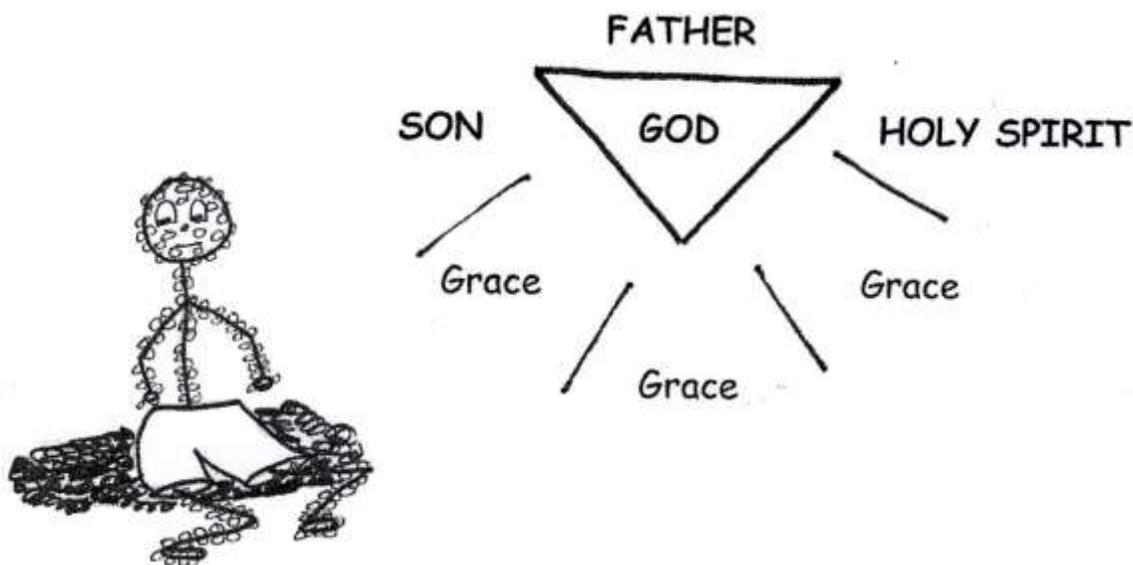
Job 32:21-22 Let me now be partial to no one, nor flatter *any* man. For I do not know how to flatter [For I know not to give flatter], *else* my Maker would soon take me away.

Elihu was an understanding, humble person. He let Job know that he had listened to all he had to say. He wanted to help Job by using God's viewpoint. He used God's sovereignty, or God being in charge, to try to open Job's eyes. God's wisdom is superior! Our wisdom is inferior to God's wisdom. Remember, Job was trying to change God's mind to see things his way. God is immutable - He can't change. We don't change God - we can't get back at God. When we are out of sorts, our impact is hurting man and ourselves. Job's thinking was hurting him and his friends; it didn't change God's perfect thinking.



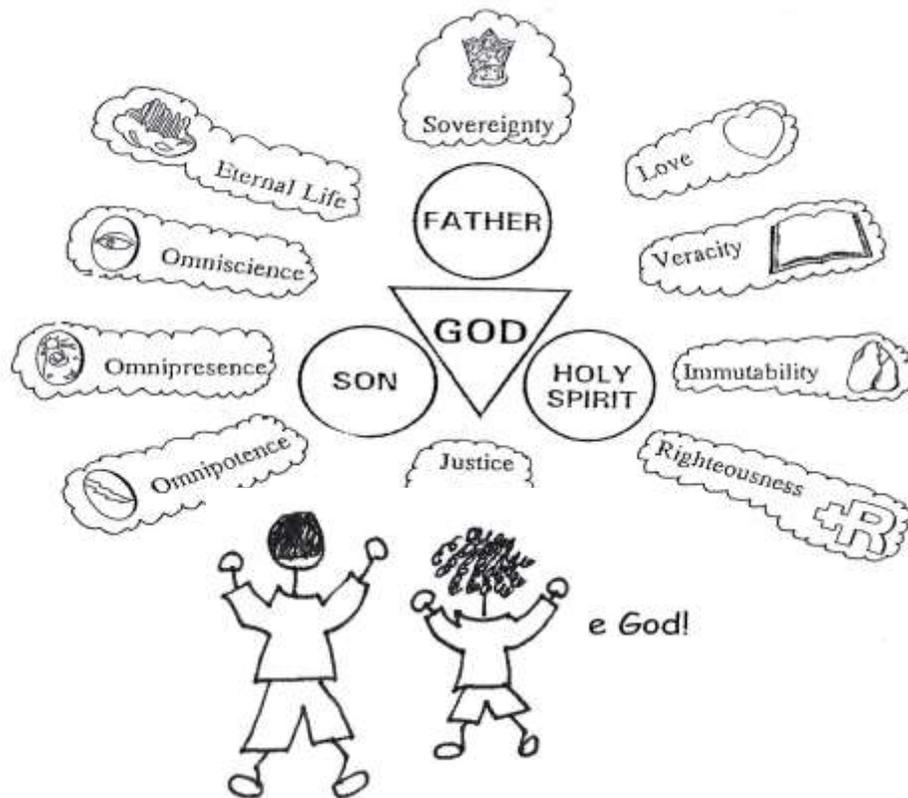
Job 35:5-7 Look at the heavens and see; and behold the clouds - they are higher than you. If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against Him? And if your transgressions are many, what do you do to Him? If you are righteous, what do you give to Him, or what does He receive from your hand?

Elihu was trying to encourage Job. Job 36:15 "He delivers the afflicted in their affliction, and opens their ear in time of oppression." He's telling Job that there is hope. God will always deliver believers. Elihu told Job that he was too worried about why he was suffering and why the wicked weren't suffering. He doesn't want Job to get involved in things that don't even matter to his situation. Elihu was trying to get Job to repent or to turn away from his focus on his own righteousness and to think about God and His righteousness. God is our Deliverer!



Job 34:10 Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to do wrong. For He pays man according to his work, and makes him find it according to his way. Surely, God will not act wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice....

Elihu was not saying that he was the wisest man on the block! He was encouraging Job to cling to the promises of God. Job 36:15, "He delivers the afflicted in their affliction, and opens their ear in *time of oppression*." He wanted him to remember that deliverance comes through God's thinking in our souls. We don't have to deliver ourselves. In fact, we can't deliver ourselves with our human viewpoint thinking! God will lead us away from danger. He promises that! If we look at Who God really is, we can't say that He won't keep His promises. We can always count on God!



## **Points to Remember**

1. Job thought God was being unfair to him. This is when his friend, Elihu, starts talking to him.
2. Elihu was angry with Job because Job was trying to justify himself before God.
3. Elihu was angry with Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar because they found no answer to Job's suffering yet they condemned him.
4. Elihu had confidence in the word of God.
5. Elihu was a humble, understanding person.
6. Elihu was trying to encourage Job.
7. He was encouraging Job to cling to the promises of God.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why did Job think God was being unfair to him?
2. Why did Job think he was suffering? Why was Job suffering?
3. Why was Elihu angry with Job? Why was Elihu angry with Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar?
4. Why did Eliphu have so much confidence to speak like he did to his elders?
5. How would you describe Elihu?
6. What did Elihu have to say to Job?
7. When we are going through suffering, to what can we cling?
8. When we are going through suffering, if God doesn't take away the suffering, how does He deliver us?

*Job's Faith, Part 5, Elihu*

References: Eusebeia Bible Church

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

Lessons: May 16, 18,19, 20,23,24,26,27,30- 2010