

Critical Spirit

Confronting the Heart of a Critic



Job 1-2

Part 1



Job 1-2

"Curse God and die!"

The words spew out of the mouth of an embittered wife stunned by tragedy

- **Gone ... Destroyed ... ALL their Possessions and ALL their Children as a Result of God's Allowing Satan to Test her Godly Husband
in Order to Prove His Faith**
- **Job Mourns Their Losses but Still Trusts the Goodness of God**
- **He Submits Himself to the Sovereignty of God by Declaring, *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"* -Job 1:21**

Job 1-2

But ... *"Curse God and die!"* is her Reply, after seeing her husband suddenly stricken afflicted from head to toe with painful sores.

○ **She observes this once Respected man so Revered in the Community...
...now sits in a pile of ashes scraping sores w- a jagged pottery**

○ **Job's noble stance before the Lord is absolute nonsense to her.**

○ **She doesn't want to hear one more word of devotion from her disease-ridden husband**

○ **A critical spirit consumes the wife of the one whom God calls *"... the greatest man among all the people ..."***

○ **She's had enough, and she wants Job ... and God ... to know it! (1:3)**

○ ***"Are you still maintaining your integrity?"* she unleashes her toxic tongue:
"Curse God and die!" -Job 2:9**

Critical Spirit

- Everything is fine ... until they open their mouths.
- They are aghast at the sight before them ... their once highly respected friend is now horrifically humbled. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (Eli, Bill, and Zo for short) have set out from their homes to pour out comforting words upon their troubled friend, but now they find themselves speechless. For seven days and seven nights they sit on the ground and commiserate, and *"No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was"* ([Job 2:13](#)).
- But soon their sympathetic presence morphs into a barrage of stinging rebuke that further crushes the spirit of poor Job. He responds in deep emotional pain. ...
- *"Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."* ([Job 6:14](#))

Critical Spirit

- Like Job's friends, has someone in your life assumed the role of your personal *heavenly sandpaper* ... a self-appointed expert at finding fault and continually focusing on your faults in an attempt to "refine" you? The abrasive words are not helpful, but hurtful, and qualify as *verbal and emotional abuse*. Such criticism grates against the grain of your soul ... wearing you down ... stripping you of your worth.
- God holds all of us accountable for how we use our words, especially words that wound. Harsh, critical words don't pour out of the hearts of godly people. Jesus said ...
- *"For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. -[Matt 12:34-35](#)*

Critical Spirit

- Eliphaz, most likely the eldest among the friends, speaks first — ever so cautiously. But then his words take on a presumptive tone.
- By the time Eli finishes, he insinuates that Job is being disciplined by God because of sin and that the wise way for Job to proceed is to submit to the discipline.
- But there's a problem with his critical presumption. ... Job's tortuous troubles have nothing to do with sin. Instead, they're all about a showdown between God and Satan over his testimony. Will Job stand? The Bible says ...

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." -James 1:12

Critical Spirit

The Bible is Not Silent about those who have a Critical Spirit ... those who sit in their Judgment Seat ... Looking Down Arrogantly on Others. ...

*•"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat." -
Romans 14:10*

A Critical Spirit is an Excessively Negative Attitude...

...Characterized by Harshness in Judging.

- Criticizers Judge Others Severely and Unfavorably.**
- Hypercritical people judge others with unreasonably strict standards.**
- Faultfinders look for and point out flaws and defects with
...nagging and unreasonable criticism.**