

ARGUING WITH GOD

Job 23:2-5 ... “Even today my complaint is bitter; my hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments, I would know the words which He would answer me, and understand what He would say to me.”

I have often heard from Bible teachers and ministers that it is okay to be angry with God and to even argue with him. To be truthful, I've never felt the freedom to be angry with God, and certainly not to argue with him. I have experienced numerous severe trials, many of them life-threatening. But still I cannot imagine any circumstance or trial that would convince me to forfeit my lifelong love and respect for God, by displaying anger toward him. But many believers feel they can win God's favor by arguing with him. They overlook the fact that an argument requires two parties, and God does not argue. So, if you yell at God and try to argue with him about your predicament or circumstances, you will just be yelling into the wind. Disrespecting God will earn you no favor with him.

In today's passage, Job tells us that in his suffering and misery, he would like to find where God sits, to then stand before him, present his case, and argue that his suffering was unfair. Job is suggesting that God as his judge, would listen to his complaints and arguments, agree with Job, and find satan guilty of persecuting him.

These are two different forms of arguing. The first is just yelling at God and accusing him of unfairness. The second example is presenting your case as in a courtroom; using arguments, which are also one-sided claims, to defend yourself. Both are futile and will do more to stir up your emotions, anxieties and frustration, than to solve your problem. Your situation is not hidden from God. He is not blind to your struggle, or deaf to your crying. If you are a genuine follower of Christ, he is in control of your situation and will help you shoulder the weight of it until it passes. If you are not a believer, you are vulnerable to the control and influence of satan and there is no hope for you as long as you continue to reject a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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