

life coming apart at the seams?

Trusting in God's goodness when life seems to be falling apart.



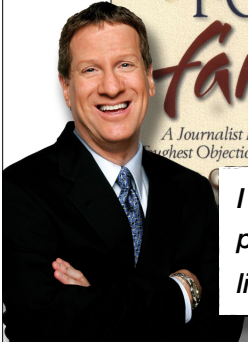
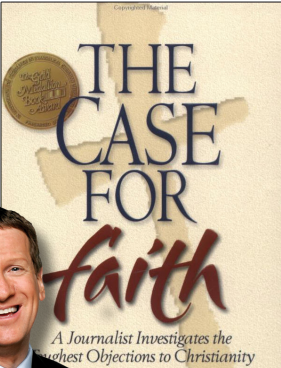
Studies from the life of Job.

The importance of finding comfort.

Shock absorbers on a car don't eliminate bumps in the road, but they do keep the car from being shaken apart. In the same way, good friends can't relieve all of your suffering, but they can play a role in helping you from being shaken apart by them.

Prov. 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.





Several years ago, I commissioned a national survey and asked people what question they'd ask if they could **"only ask God one thing, what would it be?"**

The Number One response was:

"Why is there suffering in the world?"

I did find an interesting statistical quirk – people who are married were much more likely to know **why** there's so much suffering.

www.biblegateway.com/blog/2012/07/why-does-god-allow-tragedy-and-suffering/

Why comfort is not easy to find:

1. Because we falsely believe that spiritual people shouldn't experience pain.

Psalms 22:1-2 "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? ² Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief."

Matthew 27:45 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

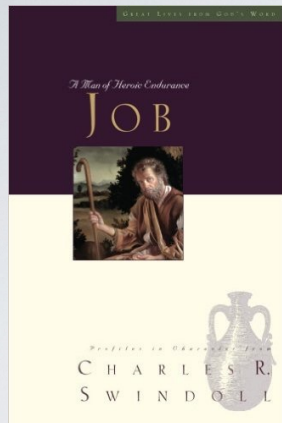
Why comfort is not easy to find:

2. Because poor assumptions cloud our ability to see the complexity of life.

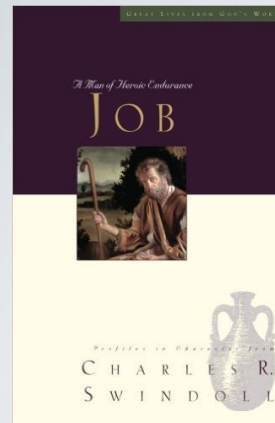
Job 4:8 Eliphaz: personal experience, "My experience shows that..."

Job 8:8 Bildad: appeals to history, "Just ask the previous generations. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors"

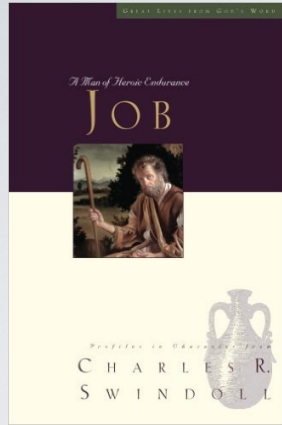
Job 11:6 Zophar: assumes Job must be a truly evil person, "Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin!"



There is a lot of bad advice out there!

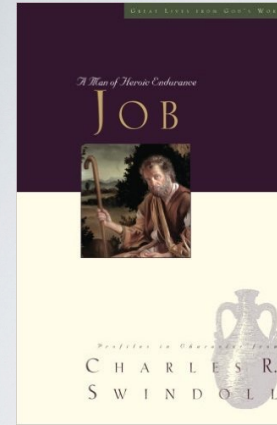


“Look, why don’t you go ahead and marry him. He’ll change after you’re married.”



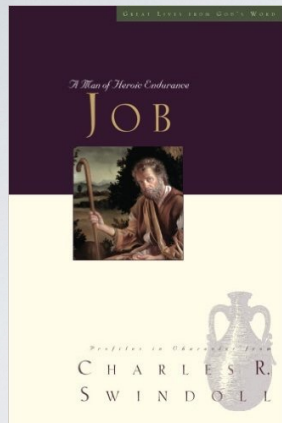
“Bright and capable as you are, don’t bother about finishing school. Do you have any idea how many millionaires there are today who never graduated from high school?”

Swindoll, Charles R. (2009-06-29). Great Lives: Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance (Great Lives Series Book 7) (p. 76)



“The weather’s pretty bad, but I’ve flown in worse. Come on, get in. I think we can make it up over the clouds without much difficulty.”

Swindoll, Charles R. (2009-06-29). Great Lives: Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance (Great Lives Series Book 7) (p. 76)



There is a lot of bad advice out there!

Swindoll, Charles R. (2009-06-29). Great Lives: Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance (Great Lives Series Book 7) (p. 76)

Where can we find comfort?

1. **By being Patient:** A good diagnosis only comes when all the information is gathered.

Job 2:12-13 When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. - Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.

Where can we find comfort?

2. **Through Prayer:** Job certainly doesn't understand why disaster has fallen on him but he never gives up on his relationship with God. Giving up on God will hurt you more than it will Him.

Job 5:1 "Call if you will, but who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?"

Matthew 26:39 he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."



Abbey D'Agostino

Where can we find comfort?

3. **In God's Promises:** The storms of life are often where God forges character in us that we can't seem to acquire through seasons of smooth sailing.

Romans 5:3-4 We also celebrate in seasons of suffering because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance, ⁴ which shapes our characters.

Romans 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Where can we find comfort?

4. **In God's Provision:** God gave us the perfect friend. Jesus tells us the truth that we need to hear and provides salvation that we couldn't obtain on our own.

John 18:37 "the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth."

Romans 5:6 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."