

Research Article

Patience of Job's Faith in Suffering and Relevance for Christians Today

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Abstract

The patience of the faith of the righteous in the face of suffering. The prototype of the patience of the righteous that we want to address is Job. The suffering that Job experienced is a picture of the suffering of a good and righteous man who fears evil. Job feared evil so much that he lived a life of obedience to God, but interestingly he still fell into a tremendous suffering. Job lost all his wealth, family and illnesses but he remained patient and always relied on God. In the face of various trials, Job accepted them willingly and did not make him angry and far from God. Job's patience in various trials is worthy to be emulated by humans in this era. Job's sufferings were sufferings where God wanted to test Job's faith and patience. Just as God tries the faith and patience of the righteous, God will return and restore Job's suffering by bestowing abundant blessings again.

Keywords: God, Job, Patience and Suffering the Faith of the Righteous

INTRODUCTION

The discourse of suffering is a paradoxical issue. Suffering is said to be a paradoxical discourse because it is experienced by the universal human being and the relativity of suffering in real life is real and generally accepted. The real experience of suffering often has different capacities and intensities from one another. The same is true of the way humans respond to it. In the reality of life, no human being says that his life is free from suffering, free from misfortune and free from the anxieties that



burden life. Suffering is part of life's struggles and experiences. The essence of suffering is an event that is very controversial with human nature who always wants to live happily and prosperously. Seeing this reality, people try their best not to fall into suffering.

When falling into suffering, man, as a rational being, tends to seek and find the causes of suffering because man does not want to lose his ideality as a seeking being. Looking for the causes and effects that plagued his life. Disturbing life because of suffering is seen as an obstacle, a nuisance and something uncomfortable. To neutralize this situation, one of the attitudes that humans need is to be patient. Patience can help humans not to get worse. Patience is a difficult thing for every human being to do. Patience in the face of life's trials and trials is a gift of God that enables every believer to know himself as an imperfect being full of despair. By recognizing his imperfections as a created being, man will act righteously in the face of suffering.

It is interesting because suffering is a general thing, meaning that it can be experienced by anyone whether he is rich, poor, evil or good. The most extreme suffering is the suffering experienced by people who live good and righteous lives before God. The prototype was Job. The book of Job tells of the trials experienced by the righteous and righteous. He ran out of all his possessions, offspring and finally he developed a very vicious skin disease. In such a situation Job remained patient and resigned to God's power, Job was not angry even though he still demanded an account from God for his suffering. Job's suffering was the suffering of the good and righteous before God. It is normal for bad people to suffer, but seeing good people suffer, most of them will be difficult for human reason to understand and accept, why the righteous should suffer.

This context is what Job faced. In response to the issue of the current suffering experienced by believers, the character of Job can be a barometer of a believer who experiences an inexplicable situation of struggle but ultimately gives the good fortune

of leading to a deeper level of knowledge of God because of patience and submission to God.

2:7 Then Satan went out of the presence of the LORD, and Job was crushed with rotten cancer from the soles of his feet to the stone of his head. 2:8 Then Job took a piece of glass to scratch his body, sitting in the midst of ashes. 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Are you still diligent in your righteousness? Curse your God and die!" 2:10 But Job said to her, "You speak like a mad woman! Are we willing to receive good from God, but not bad?" In all of them Job did not sin with his lips.

The above verses give the understanding that being patient in a test is a credibility that must be upheld by all believers. Because with patience, God will grant abundant blessings. Patience has been exemplified by Job. In the face of uncaused suffering, Job was patient and remained faithful to God. This kind of attitude must be a lesson for people today.

Based on the results of previous research, researchers found that there are several works that want to be used as references, written by several people about the suffering experienced by the faith of the righteous. For example: Mariano Hendyuan Nembos (Faith in the Midst of Suffering from Bible Review and the Teachings of the Magisterium of the Church), Benedictus Hasan (Should the Believer Suffer: Theological Reflections on Job's Suffering), Iman Sukman (Job's Suffering and Violence), Kalis Stevanus (Awareness of God through Suffering Based on Job 1-2) and Reinhard Florentino Sirat (Job's Piety in Job 2:1-13 and Its Relevance for Christians Today). Looking at the earlier writings, no one has focused deeply on "The Patience of Job's Faith in Suffering and Its Relevance to Christians Today (Job 2:1-13)", so the author wants to study it more deeply.

The value of patience in the face of suffering, especially the suffering experienced by righteous people who believe in God is absurd. Why should innocent righteous people be patient when suffering? This is both the reason and the problem that the researcher wants to discover and study, in which the patience of Job's faith in suffering becomes the prototype of the suffering of the righteous. Therefore, this

paper will explore the meaning of patience in the suffering of the righteous in the lens of faith and its target is the faithful today.

METHOD

In order to complete this paper, researchers use qualitative methods or literature studies by reading and collecting data that can help and support to complete the research. Collection of data used as a source of literature for example: Scripture, books, journals and narrative interpretation. The study conducted an analysis of the data collected, related to "the patience of Job's faith in suffering and its relevance to Christians today (Job 2:1-13). So that the purpose of the study can provide an overview and meaning of the value of patience from the suffering experienced by the righteous believers and Job as the prototype. In addition, another goal is that the faithful can better understand and live the faith and maintain faith when falling into struggles similar to Job by cultivating an attitude of patience.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Many bad events occur in life that shake the stability of human life. Man's stability will fall when his life is in a state of decline. One aspect of human decline is when people fall into suffering, moreover the suffering experienced is suffering without a cause. The suffering is just like that.

Uncaused suffering is the most disturbing experience, especially that suffering experienced by those who live righteously before God. In monotheistic religion, many of its followers question justice to God. This is because God does not act justly on them.

Ambiguity over the experience of suffering breeds skepticism, when experienced by believers whose suffering is without cause. One form of ambiguity and skepticism is when humans respond to suffering. Some respond by being patient and resigned and some choose to refuse with a desperate attitude. The manifestation of rejection of suffering is a picture of a lack of respect for God, as quoted by Louis Leahy, writing that evil and suffering are the main causes of doubts of faith and rebellion against God.

The necessary attitude in the face of suffering for human beings is patience. Patience is a statement of being willing to face trials with a calm heart. Patience means a state in which a person can face trials, not easily discouraged, not immediately heartbroken, steadfast and willing to accept fate. While suffering, according to Poerwadarminta, comes from the word "suffering" which means something that is endured in the heart such as suffering and distress. Facing suffering without patience only makes things worse. Therefore, it is appropriate that patience is the main option of every human being when facing suffering. The story of Job's suffering is suitable to be analyzed as the suffering of the righteous. The basic argument is that Job was imbued with a patient cycle that enabled him to face every suffering.

Depiction of Job's Patience in Suffering

Job's suffering was absurd. It is said to be absurd because the suffering it endures cannot be digested by human reason and common sense. Job's struggle was unexpected and shocking. What was Job's suffering like? Based on the text studied, it is said that Job suffered from the loss of his property, family, and illness. Job realized that he himself did not understand and understood why he could suffer. Job saw that his suffering was through no fault of his. Therefore God with his power and will, sovereignly gave Satan permission to test Job's patience and faithfulness.

This is affirmed by Immanuel Kant in closing his perspective on the story of Job by quoting (Job 27:5-6) "Until perishing I maintain my innocence. Until the end of my life I will not retreat from my righteousness." Job's suffering is a picture of the suffering of Christians struggling with the light of their belief in God. However, Job's credibility was that he remained patient and hopeful in God. In the book (Job chapters 1-2) in the form of literary works of wisdom, Job is identified as a character who has a character that is steadfast and patient in the face of suffering. If man wants to know and know how to be patient in the face of suffering, the prototype is Job. Job was known as a believer whose level of patience was at its highest. Job became a symbol and exemplary figure in the value of patience; a value that

parameters the extent to which a man like Job can endure.

The Patience of the Righteous in Suffering

The characteristics of human patience in the suffering of the righteous are evident in the suffering of Job. Job's suffering was interpreted as a test from God of Job's faithfulness and patience. Job faced suffering by being patient and imitating hope in God. The story of Job postulated in detail in this work is the story of the struggle of men of faith, who tried patiently to discover the value and meaning of suffering. Job was righteous, he lived well before God; But he still suffered. It is an affirmation that those who live righteously often, suffer much; for it was by suffering that they were forged, and tried their faith; and because of their patience in God, they were chosen by God to carry out his mission in the world.

To discover the causality of the suffering of the righteous, the text (Job 2:1-13) presents several notes. One of them was Satan's jealousy of Job. The reason for the jealousy of the devil is that Job was always praised by God for the righteousness of living before angels and demons. Satan is very distrustful of God's praise of man. How can man live honestly and fear evil. Is man a perfect being? That jealousy was one of the causes of Job's fall into suffering.

Suffering: The Patience Test of Job's Faith

Job's patience was thoroughly tested in the bad events he experienced. The main test and suffering that Job experienced was the loss of material possessions and offspring. Satan undermined Job's establishment. Even the devil tried to injure Job at the highest level, where Job suffered from such an excruciating skin disease. Job's illness not only affected his biological and mental body but his sociality was disrupted. Job was rejected and isolated from the surrounding community (Job. 2:8). This is illustrated through discrimination and exclusion due to many people interpreting that Job was exposed to leprosy. It was this erroneous interpretation that ultimately took away Job's honor and stability in the social eye.

Interestingly, Job saw his suffering through the lens of faith, that it was God's will and permission. Job's suffering has shown that being patient is the key to dealing with it. In such a situation of struggle, Job remained steadfast, steadfast in

his faith and trust in God. This shows how high Job's morality was. He saw that everything that happened to him was solely by God's will.

As a test of Job's moral worth and patience with suffering, Wilcox used Plato's concept of "It is easier to do good in a favorable situation than in an unfavorable or bad situation". The test Job faced arose from the devil's jealousy. Iblis dialogued with God, "What he does, you bless, and what he has increases" (Job 1:10b). "Have you not fenced around his house and what he has" (Job 1:11a). Then the devil resisted God, "Keep extending Your hand and plaguing Him, and he will curse You before You" (Job 1:12). Job's temptation was identified as a motive for Satan to see Job's faithfulness to God, whether or not in a state of suffering Job chose to be angry and turned away from God.

The Fruit of Patience In Job's Suffering

The fruit of patience is salvation. Through the value of patience in the face of Job's suffering, several values of faith are embodied; that the believer in his life is inseparable from the event of suffering. God is all-just, and the suffering experienced by the righteous remains under God's supervision so that God will again purify suffering. In the story of Job man understands that the suffering of the righteous and the faithful is with God's permission. God never tests man without the solution he gives man to deal with it; for the solution for man in the face of life's trials is God Himself. The story and experience of Job's suffering was a test of God, manifesting itself in events that shook the establishment of his faith, but thanks to patience and total surrender in God's power and plan, Job was able to get through it all.

Suffering and misfortune are seen as God's way of educating, maturing and maturing the faith (Deuteronomy 8:3-5), (Genesis 12:20-26). Still in the same vein suffering can be interpreted as a test of patience and faithfulness to God (Deuteronomy 8:2, Judges 2:23), (Job 34:36). A person's patience and faithfulness will be seen in the event of a struggle and Job is one of those who, with patience, dares to see suffering as a mystery of God.

God gave back blessings to Job twice as many years of life and twice as many possessions (vv. 12 and 16; cf. Isa 40:3 and Ex. 22:3-9). In addition, God gave a new

offspring with ten children as a symbol of perfection. Job's life prospered again. In the word glorifying circumstances there is a Hebrew tone of delivering Job from oppression, just as God delivered Israel from captivity, (Jer, 28:14; 30:12). As proof that God blessed Job, his companions again came and gathered with Job, they ate together as a sign of fellowship and they brought silver and gold rings as initial capital for him. Job died calm and peaceful.

The patience of Job's faith as the prototype of the suffering of Christians today

The suffering experienced by the believer, the one who lives righteously before God is the saving suffering. They suffer because they love God. That's how Job was. Such a great ordeal hit him, but he remained strong and patient to face it. The reason and cause of Job's suffering, when viewed from a theological point of view, is that God was willing to tempt the extent of Job's steadfastness of faith, love and piety for God and was willing to show man's fragility. This was done by God because God wanted to see if Job loved him, and kept all his commandments; simply because of blessings from God, or because Job truly loved Him. God knew that Job was righteous, so He mandated the devil to tempt Job and his family. Job's suffering is a picture of the suffering of innocent people. The simple picture of piety that Job had was patience and hope in God. Hope and patience with Allah is a must, because it will lose all that is the foundation, namely the blessings and graces of life from God.

Seeing Job's patient attitude in the face of suffering, there is a positive value that becomes credibility and priority for people today regarding patience in the face of suffering. The prototype of Job became the parameter of today's humanity on how to respond to the suffering experienced. In suffering, Job had an attitude of patience and surrendered himself to the power of God who would rule over his life. It is this attitude that purifies and does not diminish faith in God. Job had faith that God would always be with and care for His creation. Job had a patient attitude by surrendering to God to mature himself. That with an attitude of faith and patience Job won a test of life. It was this attitude of patience and faith that strengthened Job

to face suffering. From the story and struggle of Job became a positive value and lesson for Christians today. This reason must also bear fruit and be experienced by Christians today who are afflicted by suffering. There are several values that become power points for today's people:

Patience Is Shown Through Surrender and Passover

The act of surrender and surrender to God when experiencing a suffering is an attitude that should be lived by Christians as a representation of believers. Resignation and reliance on God are concrete attitudes of faith. This attitude requires a humility that God is the source of strength in life. In addition, there is an attitude of intensity of belief that everything that happens in life, both joys and sorrows, is under God's guidance so that it is not afraid even though it is physically and mentally threatened. That was already Job's experience. Job experienced uncaused struggle and suffering. Job still surrendered to God, that God had a wonderful plan.

All events are not coincidences but there is God's plan in them. The essence of the teaching in the book of Job, as a righteous person who suffers is that suffering occurs with God's permission. Job accepted all his sufferings faithfully. The character of faith that Job showed was active faith. This can be seen by one example of his reaction shown by "tearing his robe and shaving his head and bowing down and worshiping him and secondly nakedly I escape my mother's womb, nakedly will also return to it. God who gives, God who takes praise be to God (Job 1:21-22)". Job's reaction was directed toward God. What can be understood from the way Job prostrates and surrenders is Job's awareness of God's omnipotence allowing it all to happen to him and Job's awareness of his fragile humanity before God and his sacrifice patiently enduring God's embrace.

Patience is shown through self-denial

Self-denial can be understood by an attitude of detachment from what belongs to him and prioritizing God and others. Self-denial is understood as a willingness and willingness to give what belongs to him, with suffering. The self-denying expression of faith was shown by Job before he suffered. For example, when

the feast was over, Job always sanctified his children by offering burnt offerings to God (Job 1:5). Job was faithful to God and did not choose to wrath. The suffering of loss of property, family, and illness of Job became a picture of Job's self-sacrifice to God. It is said to be a victim because people who are so righteous in faith and reject evil, experience great suffering. Interestingly, under such circumstances, Job still sacrificed and had faith in God's authority. Thus, Job's patience in the face of suffering is still very relevant to Christians today.

CONCLUSION

Every human being who has a rational and critical mind will always question the matter of suffering without cause. Suffering without cause is absurd. In order to minimize the absurdity in man, man is only patient. Patience in the face of suffering is an important point for humans. In absurd circumstances, Job remained surrendered and surrendered to God with an attitude of patience in faith while waiting for God's help. Being patient must be like Job without limits. In patience, Job had a strong determination to confirm his heart and mind that the Lord would restore. For Job, patience was also the main virtue as a believer to face suffering, as well as a new energy to be able to digest and interpret the meaning of suffering for the righteous.

Through patience, Job was freed from Satan's deceit. Patience led Job to total surrender to God to draw closer and know God. The evidence of knowing God is that Job obtained the blessing and salvation of body and soul. People of faith need to learn from Job who is patient and full of faith in God, while working for the good of himself and others. Job's patience was a representation of his faith and closeness to God. Job's patience led him to salvation. This is an important reason why Job's attitude can be one of the inspirations for believers today, to keep faith in God even in very difficult situations.

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