

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *The Mistake of a Lifetime*

JOB 10:15

*“If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head.  
I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;”*

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History and wars are filled with mistakes that were both unfortunate and costly. One of the greatest tragedies took place at the end of WWII. A German transport ship was spotted by a British plane just one day before Germany surrendered. The RAF pilot decided to attack the ship. After hitting it with a bomb, the ship sank rather quickly. It was soon discovered that the ship was not carrying supplies that would have lengthened the war, but rather it was carrying prisoners. The Soviet army had been making great advances against German-held territory; and therefore, it was decided to evacuate as many Allied POWs as possible and relocate them. On that one particular ship named the *Cap Arcona*, 5,000 POWs were killed when the ship was hit, prisoners which would have been granted their freedom had they lived just one more day. One pilot and one bomb led to an unimaginable tragedy.

Another mistaken attack on a totally different level resulted not in the loss of thousands, but of just one. However, that one accidental death was viewed as being so critical that it resulted in the loss of an entire war. The war in question was the Civil War, and the one man who was accidentally shot was none other than Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. Jackson and a few other officers under his command were returning to their camp under the cover of darkness. They had been secretly probing enemy lines in preparation for the next day's battle when a young and inexperienced sentry heard them approaching. Instead of waiting to find out who the approaching soldiers were, he simply fired into the dark, striking the general. Jackson was immediately taken into a tent where it was later decided to amputate his arm in order to save his life, but he died just three days later. Civil War historians regard Stonewall Jackson's service to General Lee as being so important that when Lee lost his favorite general, he also lost hope of winning the war. What happened? All was lost because of one

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sentry and one shot. As we continue rummaging through the failures of Job, we are brought to an admission on his part that helps put his many shortcomings, blunders, and mistakes into a proper perspective to which we can relate. After having launched a salvo of accusations against God that included being wicked, Job then continued his complaints to his friends and mentioned a brief clue as to where his thinking was.

### Job 10:14-15

“If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity. 15 If I be wicked, woe unto me; and *if* I be righteous, *yet* will I not lift up my head. *I am* full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;”

Tucked away in a volley of insults and complaints against God, Job accidentally blurted out the reason he was behaving in such an outlandish way. His life had been so twisted out of shape that he was totally confused. Nothing made sense to him any longer. He found himself at the same place where many Americans find themselves in relation to what they believe is reality. Americans were taught the government existed for their protection, because that is how it began when the Constitution was written. However, the American people are discovering that the government has become so perverted that it has been used to enslave them. The people were told that President Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald who had links to the Soviet Union. As of late, it appears the CIA was involved along with the Secret Service, with the fatal shot coming from the driver of the limousine. The people were told the war in Vietnam was a war to contain communism and that it was precipitated by an unprovoked attack on an American ship in the Gulf of Tonkin. It has been revealed that there was no attack and that the war was launched because of a lie. Many can recall where they were when the Twin Towers were struck by hijacked airliners along with the Pentagon. Years later, the American people are again having to face the reality that it, too, was an orchestrated deception. The Pentagon was not struck by an airplane but a missile. It just happened to hit the accounting offices where billions of dollars had been discovered to have disappeared with no explanation. On and on the lies have been crafted to bring many to the place where they no longer know what to believe.

Like Job, we, too, are full of confusion. However with that confusion, God has provided a truth we can use to gain our footing.

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## 1 Corinthians 14:33

“For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

When confusion appears, we know God is not the One Who created it. We might not know for sure where it came from, but we can be 100% confident it did not originate with God. That is what now brings us to this huge dilemma in Job’s life where he became so confused about what was taking place in his life that he verbally attacked God to such a degree that he accused God of being wicked in His behavior against Job. Where did Job’s confusion come from? It did not come from God, but rather at least five different sources. All of them could have been prevented if Job had only been willing to close the door on them and stop them in their tracks.

## CONFUSION COMES FROM ... IGNORING THE BIBLE.

### 2 Timothy 2:4-7

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5 And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. 7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”

The context of this chapter has to do with Christians being identified as soldiers who are engaged in spiritual warfare. It was Paul who was encouraging Timothy to prepare himself for the battles he was about to face while pastoring a church. What did Timothy need more than anything? He needed understanding! That understanding would only come about by considering or taking into account the advice Paul was giving him, which just happened to be inspired Scripture.

In WWII, a trend began among veterans of combat to ignore the new arrivals by keeping their distance from them and avoiding them as much as possible. The reason was twofold. First, the new guys were dangerous. They were loud when they needed to be quiet. They made stupid decisions and accidentally got people killed. Therefore, they were a liability and risked the lives of others who tried to protect them. Second, the new guys were ignored because they were some of the first ones killed; and therefore, it was easier not to get to know them. While

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that was a horrible way of doing things, there was one smart thing a new guy could do to help his chances of surviving. He could consider, observe, and watch everything an experienced soldier was doing to stay alive, and then do the same things.

At this point in his life, Paul was the veteran who was trying to help Timothy to keep his head on straight while he was involved in spiritual warfare. If Job ever had an excuse for what he was going through and the confusion he was experiencing, it would have to be in the fact that he did not have a Bible to read or to consider. Many believe Job is, in fact, the oldest book of the Bible and was written before Moses was even born. If that belief is true, it means that when Job was going through these horrible times in his life, there was no Bible for him to read or to consider. To put this in perspective, not having a Bible does not mean Job, his friends, or countless others were totally ignorant of God's Word, because they did in fact know a lot about God which means that somehow, God had conveyed His Word to them. Yes, Job had failed to consider the Word of God just as you and I are prone to do. Where does this leave all of us? We have a tendency to value our feelings and the opinions of others over and above what is found in the Bible. The result is that we are fine until the shooting starts, and then we experience confusion, not knowing for sure where the shots are coming from or who is doing the shooting. Just like the two assassination attempts on President Trump prior to his election, that confusion is by design. A great way to minimize our confusion is to keep our head in the Bible, so we can keep our spiritual wits about us.

## **CONFUSION COMES FROM ... NOT TESTING THE SPIRITS.**

### **1 John 4:1**

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

The word *try* means to test, to examine. How are we to test a spirit? The first consideration to take into account is that this is not referring to ghosts or evil spirits as much as men and women who are false prophets. We do not need to call for a Catholic priest to perform an exorcism but rather we need to realize

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that a false prophet is a person who is being influenced by Satan to teach heresy. How and where can a person begin? The answer is painfully simple, yet it will create a firestorm of controversy. A good starting point is to avoid women preachers. The current batch of women preachers at the time of this writing, like Joyce Meyers and President Trump's idiotic pick as his spiritual advisor, will claim the Bible mentions women who prophesied or preached, such as the daughters of Philip. God also used a donkey to speak to Balaam, but that does not mean it was to be the norm, rather the exception. Just as the gift of healing was a temporary gift that was done away with when the Bible was completed, God also wrote a verse to settle the question of women preachers when He wrote the following verse.

### 1 Corinthians 14:34

“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.”

What kind of a woman would deliberately choose to violate this verse? It would be a woman who is either very confused about the Bible or one who has a bad spirit toward truth. Whatever she would have to say would be something I have no interest in and would avoid like the plague. A second danger to avoid are weird experiences. While Job did not have to contend with women preachers like we have in this day and age, he did have to listen to the spooky, supernatural mumbling of one of his friends. Eliphaz told Job about his weird experience.

### Job 4:12-17

“Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.  
13 In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men,  
14 Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. 15  
Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up: 16 It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, *there was* silence, and I heard a voice, *saying*, 17 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?”

Was this a legitimate vision from God or something else? To put it in perspective, we must first determine if Eliphaz was telling the truth.

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**Job 4:7**

“Remember, I pray thee, who *ever* perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?”

The answer to that question is that Jesus Christ was innocent, yet He was cut off which means the man who had the spooky experience was wrong. Job was confused, in part because he was dealing with a man who was having weird experiences that could not be explained and the same confusion is still prevalent today. How can a person explain an out-of-body experience? How can a person explain speaking in tongues? How can a person explain aliens? My answer is we do not have to explain them. We just need to beware of them and realize there are spirits in this world that might not be our friends or interested in doing anything but creating confusion. Right after I got saved, I was still on active duty. On one particular Sunday, I attended a chapel service on base because I had to remain on base that day. When I arrived, I was sitting in the pew with just a handful of people present, and when a female chaplain stood up behind the pulpit and began to preach, I got up and left. I was not trying to make any kind of a statement. If I had known she was going to be preaching, I would not have even gone in. When it was apparent what was taking place, I quietly got up and left, not wanting to make a scene, but not wanting to hear anything she had to say. That is how we need to treat these spirits as we come upon them. When we find ourselves in the midst of false prophets, we need to remove ourselves from their presence.

## CONFUSION COMES FROM ... A LACK OF COMMITMENT.

**James 1:8**

“A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.”

What is being double-minded? It means two-spirited. It is describing a person who is experiencing a tug of war between two spirits who are trying to control his thinking and behavior. What was Job struggling with in the matter of his commitment? It was the one thing that bothered God the most and that was Job’s unwillingness to trust Him. In 2026, with the arrest of Sean Combs and the partial exposure of his Diddy parties, along with the emerging details of the

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Epstein files, many in America have been made uncomfortably aware of a presence of evil that is unbelievable. When Justin Bieber was only 15 years old, he was on the verge of being signed as a new singing sensation. His mother was signing all of the necessary papers for her son to become richer than anyone could imagine, and all she had to do was go along with whatever Sean Combs wanted. When Bieber was only 15, his mother gave him permission to be taken by P. Diddy Combs to stay with him for 48 hours. It is believed he was drugged and raped by Combs and others during that 48 hours as the price for fame. How could a parent do such a thing? In Cambodia, the mother of a 12-year-old girl was being pressured by loan sharks to pay what she owed. She did not have the money, so she chose to sell her daughter to a man who raped her for two days. She was then returned home to her mother. After having her debt paid off, the mother's next move was to make money by once again selling her daughter. She took her to a brothel where she was kept for three days, and raped by more than four men each day. She was then returned to her mother. Her next trip was to two brothels, one of which was 300 miles from home. Once again, she was sent back home. When she learned her mom was planning the next trip which was to last for six months, she ran away and eventually found a place of safety. When her mother was confronted about what she had done, she blamed her decisions on poverty and said, "Selling my daughter was heartbreaking, but what can I say?" Why would any mother be willing to allow her child to be exposed to such evil? The reason is simple; she is double-minded. She knows what is right, yet the temptation for money or fame causes her to remain undecided as to what she should do. It was that same indecision that grabbed hold of Job in relation to how he viewed God. He believed in God without reservation, but he was undecided as to what God was like. Was He really perfect and loved Job, or was He capable of injustice and perhaps even despised Job to the point of laughing at his pain? Justin Bieber has every right to feel betrayed by his parents and the people in the music industry whom he considered friends. The young girl in Cambodia has a right to feel betrayed and unable to ever trust her mother again. God, too, knows what it feels like when one of His own children is double-minded about Him. He is hurt, offended, and broken-hearted by how He is often treated. What is our solution? That is a problem Job tried to resolve, but in a somewhat half-hearted way. One of the most famous statements in the Bible was made by Job.

**Job 13:15a**

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: ... ”

Let me share a viewpoint with that statement. It reflects perfectly what Job’s ongoing problem was, which was a lack of commitment on his part. Now let us read the entire verse and not just the part we all know.

**Job 13:15**

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”

What Job said was that he trusted God completely, AND he trusted himself completely as well! Which is it? The answer is both and neither. Job was trying to have it both ways, saying he trusted God completely, yet he was still not willing to quit relying on what he thought was best. Out of fairness to Job, he was not the only good man who really struggled with trusting God.

**Psalm 119:34**

“Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.”

The psalmist was using prayer to make a deal with God by admitting he had a problem with his lack of understanding. Why would he ask for understanding? The obvious reason was that he was confused about what had been happening to him, and he was using prayer to get rid of the question marks in his mind and heart. What is this deal he was trying to make with God? IF God would help him to understand what was going on in his life, then he was willing to get on board 100% with his whole heart. What if God did not help him understand? That is exactly the place where Job was, and it is one of the most difficult and lonely places in all the world.

**CONFUSION      comes      FROM      ...      DREADED  
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-12**

“*We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10

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Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you."

Paul was describing a huge difference between himself, the apostles, and these church members. He was surrounded by trouble but still in the fight. He, too, was perplexed or confused but not willing to become so depressed that he was considering quitting. He and the other apostles had been marked for death. His approaching death was a constant source of motivation in his life, while his listeners were being motivated by a new life in Christ. Paul's point here was that when he was buried by trouble and reminded of his mortality and pending death, he was perplexed. The word *perplexed* means to be in doubt with no way out. Job was expressing his faith in God as if to say, "... though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him ... ," while at the same time refusing to abandon his own ways. He did not see any way out of his circumstances, so he wanted to keep his options open. That was the very reason Paul found himself drowning in trouble and why Job would eventually reach the same place. Both godly men were brought face to face with their worst nightmares for the purpose of learning how to trust God and Him alone.

## CONFUSION COMES FROM ... TRUSTING YOUR EMOTIONS.

### Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

When Daisy Strongin was 18 years old, she made a decision based on confusion and, as she herself later stated, excessive use of the internet. She decided to transition from a biological female into a man. She created an internet journey of what it was like to start taking testosterone injections with video clips showing her new male appearance as well as sharing her new and deeper voice. Two years later, using the name of Ollie, she decided to undergo what is called top surgery during which her breasts were removed. Again, she posted videos for all of her fans and then enjoyed the feeling of having total control of her body while appearing in public as a man. As time progressed, she began having inner

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feelings that she had never experienced before. She felt herself being drawn to motherhood as well as to Christianity. She was filled with fear and regret. Regret over having allowed herself to be drawn into the delusion of being a transgender and fear wondering what man would ever want to marry her. She went through the detransition process, reverting back to wanting to look like a woman. While doing so, she was forced to accept the reality that while she was a biological woman, her voice would permanently sound like a man's voice, and her body had been mutilated. She ended up getting married and had two children with her husband. While she has the joy of being a wife and mother, she will live with lifelong regrets. Job is usually highly thought of by most Christians because of the horrific trials he was forced to endure, but what was even worse was not his circumstances, but rather the raw emotions they produced. With our emotions, we tend to come up with the worst of decisions.

### Job 10:19-20

"I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave. 20 *Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,*"

Speaking to God, Job foolishly stated, "... let me alone." That attitude is exactly what happens when a person has become totally confused while in the midst of a spiritual battle. He develops an attitude of leave me alone, so he quits reading the Bible, and he quits spending time in prayer, and he quits going to church. What should Job have done at this point of confusion?

### Isaiah 40:31

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint."

Can I share something that would have changed the life of Daisy Strongin, the woman who was confused and wanted to identify as a man? She made that decision when she was only 18 years of age, yet according to scientific studies, the human brain is not fully developed until somewhere between 25-30 years of age. If that is true on a physical level, at what age do we truly mature spiritually? One way to tell is that when a person is willing to wait on God, he has arrived at a place where God can trust him with his decisions.