

PRESUMPTUOUS FOLLY

Job 35

**Job demonstrates presumptuous foolishness
with his misunderstanding of godliness**

The folly of

I. REWARD-BASED OBEDIENCE (1-8)

A. AUDACIOUS COMMENTS (1-3)

1. An audacious claim (1-2)
 - a. God should trust me to judge correctly (2a)
 - b. I'll define what is right before God (2a)
2. Two audacious questions (3)
 - a. What advantage will my righteousness rather than my sinfulness be to God?
 - b. What profit will my righteousness rather than my sinfulness be to me?

B. INSTRUCTIVE ANSWERS (4-8)

1. Regarding God (5-7)
 - a. Get perspective (5)
 - Don't think you're bigger than you are! - See Psalm 8:3-4
 - b. Get real! (6-7)
 - 1) Our sin does not change God (6)
 - 2) Our righteousness does not impress God (7)
 - 3) God cannot be manipulated
2. Regarding Men (8)
 - a. Publically: Our conduct impacts others
 - b. Personally: What is my profit?
 - No answer is given: It doesn't matter, it's not about you!

The folly of

II. RELIEF-BASED PRAYER (9-16)

A. GOD DOES NOT ANSWER THE SELFISH (9-13)

1. Man's Focus (9)
 - Praying only when we need God to get us out of something
2. Man's Failure (10-11)
 - No devotion to God in prayer ... a lack of worshipful prayer
3. Man's Frustration (12-13)
 - a. No answer due to pride (12)
 - Unanswered cries because of ungodly attitudes
 - b. No answer even with repetition (13)

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B. GOD DOES NOT ANSWER THE IMPATIENT (14-16)

1. Job's Accusation (14a)
 - God is off duty or absent because I haven't heard from Him
2. Elihu's Answers (14b-15)
 - a. Submit to God's timetable
 - b. God's unresponsiveness does not mean your prayer is not heard (15)
3. Job's Actions (16)
 - a. Huffing: Wind, air or breath released in snorts, coughs or humphs!
 - b. Hollering: Abundant but ignorant prayers

III. FORSAKING PRESUMPTUOUS FOLLY**A. RENEW YOUR VIEW OF GOD - Isaiah 6:1-5**

1. See God's awesomeness (1-2), holiness (3) and power (4)
2. Sense your unworthiness (5)

B. DEVELOP MEANINGFUL GODLINESS - Isaiah 6:6-8

1. Purged from sin (6-7)
2. Prepared to serve (8)

C. REJECT CONSUMER-DRIVEN CHRISTIANITY

1. We must refuse a "Genie-God" mentality that seeks personal prosperity rather than godly piety
2. An obedience that only expects reward and prayer that always expects relief is selfish

CONCLUSION:

**“Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding”
- Proverbs 9:6**

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