



## [Job 42:1-6](#)

(1) And Job answered the LORD and said, (2) "I know that You can do all things, and *that* no thought can be withheld from You. (3) *You asked*, 'Who *is* he who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have spoken that which I did not understand; *things* too wonderful for me; yea, which I did not know. (4) Hear, I beseech You, and I will speak; *You said*, 'I will ask of you, and you will declare to Me.' (5) I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You. (6) Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes."

*A Faithful Version*

This is the conclusion, the climax, of his long and detailed story. Now Job can [see God](#). From the context, properly seeing [God](#) involves getting the self out of the way! As long as self was in his line of sight, Job judged God by his own perspective. Remember, we see what we want to see, what we are educated to see. So Job saw his own wisdom, his own works, and they blocked his view of God in His greatness. The carnal mind is trained to do this.

It takes great determination, discipline in study and prayer, and meditation to break oneself of that natural, carnal mode of thinking. Even when we succeed, we have to understand that our vision of God still has to be constantly replenished—"day by day," Paul says ([II Corinthians 4:16](#))—and upgraded, refocused, exercised, as it were, in the truth.

Job's case is particularly interesting. Job thought he knew God well, but he was painfully unaware that there was still much he did not know. During his sufferings, he threw a great many direct challenges at God in an effort either to justify himself or to understand why he was going through this trial. Yet,

God never directly answered any of Job's challenges! Instead, beginning in chapter 38, He leads Job to see his insignificance in light of God's greatness. Most people do not realize that in the entire book, Job never repents of [sin](#). Sin is not the issue! The issue is that, despite Job's extensive knowledge of God, he did not see Him as all-powerful! He did realize that God alone puts down evil and brings to pass all of His holy will.

We can tell the real issue in the book of Job by what God says in chapters 38-41. God makes two speeches. It is not self-righteousness that God addresses, but Job's questioning of God's justice in the governance of His creation.

When Job opens his mouth to speak in [Job 42:1-6](#), it is to tell God that he got the point: *God's purpose is all that counts!* In addition, since He is God, He can bring it to pass. God has the right, the will, and the loving nature to do anything He pleases to anybody at any time—and good will result.

Do we believe that? A caution, however: A man as spiritually mature as Job did not—until the end of the book.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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