

BILL KYNES AND WILL KYNES

DEFIANT FAITH IN THE
FACE OF SUFFERING

WRESTLING
with

JOB



Q & A

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Academic

Wrestling with Job *Defiant Faith in the Face of Suffering*

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The unique richness of the book of Job cannot be simply explained—it must be experienced. In this collaboration between pastor father and scholar son Bill and Will Kynes, you will find exposition, spiritual application, and a deeper look at the thornier aspects of the text, equipping you to consider how you too might practice defiant faith.

A Pastor and Scholar Offer Experiential Treatment of Job

Why did you decide to offer this particular approach to the message of Job?

Bill Kynes and Will Kynes: We wanted to make the powerful message of Job more accessible to pastors and lay readers. Job is a difficult book, and our book provides a guide to its message, geared to a general reader, that can also be used in a small group or church class. Its academic notes help the reader to go deeper. It also provides an example for the way the book can be expounded in a preaching series that respects the book's literary form. When preaching or teaching a difficult book like Job, the contribution of biblical scholarship is invaluable, but engaging with it can be daunting. We have sought to provide key points of scholarly insight in an accessible way that does not distract from the exposition of the text but offers deeper insight to enrich the reader's understanding.

What is your thesis for *Wrestling with Job*?

Kynes and Kynes: Job can encourage us all, in whatever our circumstances, to persevere in faith to the very end. This is critical because we will all suffer, and without an enduring faith, we are lost. Job's journey shows us what it is like to encounter God in a fallen world.

What are three key distinctives of this book?

Kynes and Kynes:

- This book ties the theological and devotional message of Job to its literary form.
- It argues for reading Job as an exemplar of the broader biblical tradition of defiant faith, in which Job's argument with God is an expression of his faith in God's goodness, power, and justice.
- It combines both pastoral and scholarly perspectives on the book of Job, uniting two approaches that often remain separate.

What are some unique features in *Wrestling with Job*?

Kynes and Kynes: Rather than a book about how to read Job, our book is a reading of Job. It takes the reader on a journey through the book of Job, seeking to help the reader *feel* Job's experience rather than simply read about it, and engaging the reader on the emotional level as does, we argue, the book of Job itself. It is an exposition of Job's message with a view to its personal application. The discussion questions probe spiritual aspects of that exposition. The style addresses the reader much more directly.

The endnotes address issues of a more academic sort, such as historical background, literary criticism, and translation options, in a way that is accessible to lay readers. They will be a valuable resource for the reader who wants to dig deeper into the many interpretive challenges of reading Job. They are designed to enhance rather than distract from the thrust of our book as it guides any reader through Job, providing a helpful aid for personal or group study, as well as giving a model for the pastor of how Job can be delivered in a preaching series.



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