

*Faith Cometh
By Hearing*

JOB

*Sermon Preached By
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This evening I am going to preach on the trials and tribulations of Job and offer some understanding of why they happened.

How many times have we questioned why things happen to us? We'll be going along thinking that we're living in God's will; doing what God wants us to do; living our lives for God; full of faith.

Then here comes the steamroller, right in your path, bearing down on you. The next thing you know, you are being pressed down. The steamroller is squashing the life out of you and you find yourself asking, 'Why?' Even worse, you begin listening to the devil and the thoughts he puts into your mind – thoughts that cause you to think that you must have done something wrong and that now God is punishing you for your past and present sins.

When those times occur, try to think back to what I am going to present to you tonight – especially with regard to the parallels we can draw from Job's life. Then, when trouble comes to you and your faith is being tested, you can reflect upon and apply the lessons of Job. This will give you a firmer foundation for God's word.

Let's go to Job, chapter one. Incidentally, there is a lot of controversy over when Job's story was actually written and there is even more controversy over when Job actually lived. I believe it was some time around the patriarchs' time-line - after the flood; probably after the existence of Abraham but before the Mosaic Law was introduced, because Job doesn't refer to Mosaic Law. So I believe Job was alive some time after Abraham, but before Moses ... not that I'm here with you tonight to try to prove when Job lived.

So now to chapter one. **‘There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was perfect.’** That’s not a good translation. So scratch out the word **‘perfect’** from your bible and replace it with the word **‘complete’**, by which we mean, ‘not wanting in any respect at all’.

This man was complete, needing nothing. God had provided for him and blessed him with everything. That’s why ‘perfect’ is a bad translation. It gives the false impression that he had no sins. And as I will unfold in the upcoming chapters, Job was **not** perfect.

Even though he followed close to God and tried to practice God’s ways, he was not perfect. And even though God had protected him, he still did not lead a life of perfection. He had sins. We all have sins. Only one did not have sin and that is Jesus. Thank God for his grace and forgiveness.

Back to Job – the man who was perfect, complete, not wanting in any respect, upright. The man who feared God. That is how Job lived his life of faith. Of course, he didn’t have Jesus to look to as an example. Nor was there the written word of God as we have it today. Therefore, this man feared God and departed from evil in every way he knew how. That was how Job applied faith to his life.

Moving to verse two, we see **‘And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.’** Job also had 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 oxen, and 500 she asses’. So not only was he complete, he was also **very** wealthy. Many of you out there are probably saying to yourself at this time, ‘Well if I had all of Job’s wealth. If I were complete. If I were not wanting in any respect, I could fear God and depart from evil. Just give me the chance God and I will show you that I can be as strong a believer as Job was’.

My study leads me to believe that Job feared God and was departing from evil before he became wealthy; before he gained his great household. God blessed

Job, and made him wealthy, because of his frame of mind – because of his fearing of God; because of his departing from evil; because he was living a life of faith. I've heard Christians complain, 'Why doesn't God bless me like He blessed Job?'

They should stop comparing themselves to Job. God deals with each saint individually. He knows **your** heart and He knows what **you** need. He knows where **you are** in your faith walk and where **others are** in their faith walk. It is not for you to judge; to look upon others with jealousy or to declare that your lot in life is unfair. If you truly want to be a Christian, your only concern should be following God and pleasing Him.

How? By faith! The most important wealth that you will ever receive is faith, because faith will lead to imputed righteousness. And there is no greater wealth than that!

So stop looking to the seen things and start living the life of the unseen things. Until you can achieve that frame of mind, daily, you will never grow in faith in God's word. You will still be concerned about the material distractions of this world. Job had the material things but it did not matter to him whether he had them or not. His substance grew because he feared God and departed from evil.

Verse four. '**And his sons went and feasted in their houses every one his day.**' Most scholars believe that what is being described here is simply a birthday party - that when one of his sons had a birthday, they would get together and have a party. I've read many commentaries, some trying to make more out of this verse than I think there is, so we'll just move on to verse five.

In verse five, Job presents burnt offerings to the Lord, on behalf of his sons – troubled that his sons may have sinned or cursed God in their hearts. Job was concerned that God should be the priority in all things, even those to do with his family. '**And it was so when the days of their feasting were gone about, that**

Job sent and sanctified them and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all, for Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job do continually.'

Now Job could have sat back and said, '*I am wealthy. I have powerful friends. I am an influential man*'. We can see this if we go back to verse three. '**so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.**' He could have stepped back and not been concerned about his sons' actions or even about his own walk of faith. He very well knew that he was the greatest of all the men of the east.

It's very easy to sit back in spiritual pride and forget God. It's very easy to become complacent when things are going well in your life. However, when things go badly, how many of you start blaming God?

Well thank God that He is a God of grace and that He's there to help. You have to grow in Christ. You have to grow in faith and realize that when times of trouble come to you, you should press closer to the Lord.

In David's earlier Psalms, he spent much time moaning and groaning about his situation. However, as his faith in God matured, he began going to his helper and comforter more quickly. He went to the Lord.

As you go through life, learn from David. Learn from these great men of God whose stories are in the bible. As each matured in faith, each learned to put their faith back on God more quickly. Each relied on God and trusted in Him.

Unlike us, Job did not have Jesus Christ as a mediator. Jesus Christ is sitting at God's right hand, mediating for us daily, throughout our various situations and trials. He promised never to leave or forsake us.

Now we move onto Verse six. **‘Now there was a day, where the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.’** I know some of you are probably saying, ‘Well I thought Satan got kicked out of heaven’. Yes, he did. But Satan still had a certain amount of access to the throne of God. God, for some reason, allowed him this access. After all, he allowed the devil to rule and reign here on earth, in the unseen dimension that not only controls destinies, but also lives - as well as affecting humanity.

So Satan still had that access to the throne of God and when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan went too. I can’t help but think that maybe God has placed certain conditions on Satan - that whilst he has free reign down here, He still wants Satan to admit what he is doing and what he is planning to do ... even though God already knows.

So God wanted Satan to present himself - to submit himself to his creator; to make Satan acknowledge his evil. At verse seven, the Lord asked Satan, **‘Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth’.** Of course, God knew where Satan was. God already knew what Satan was doing! Just as he knows what we are doing.

‘And the Lord said unto Satan Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord and said From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it’. Satan is like a roaring lion, looking for those he can devour. He is scoping out the situation. He is looking for lives to destroy. He scans the world with his binoculars so he can present accusations, as an accuser of the brethren, at God’s throne. Satan is the biggest *‘I told you so’* that ever existed. He looked forward to Job’s failures as he looks forward to our failures. Then he can present our failures; use them to accuse us; to say, *‘I told you so. They do not believe in your holy word, they have no concern for it; they just want to follow their own way, living their lives, finding themselves’.* Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He was then and still is now,

The big difference between Job and us, is that we have Jesus Christ to tell Satan to, '*Shut up! Shut your mouth!*' In his time, Job didn't have our mediator. We do. How more blessed are we, than Job was? How much more wealthy are we, than Job was? I guess that's why I dislike crybaby Christians. The walk of faith is tough.

Take your eyes off your condition. Stop trying to figure out what you did wrong, and put your eyes back on God. Put your eyes back on Jesus. All life's problems happen because there is a purpose for it. As in Job's life.

God has a purpose. If you follow Jesus, prepare yourself. The war has begun. It is going to get tough. It is going to get hard. It is not going to be easy. And it's definitely not for wimps. Count the cost before you actually build your tower. Count the cost before you actually go to war. See if you have enough to be sufficient, to complete the building, to finish the war.

Too many Christians think they are going to war prepared for battle, but they haven't put their spiritual armor on. Then, as soon as they see their enemy - before they even engage - they disengage, cowering down in defeat. They are **not** prepared.

As soon as Satan sees that you have turned your life over to Christ, he comes and hits you hard, steamrolling over you repeatedly to prevent you from getting up. That's the problem with religious television. It seems their only message is that if you come to Jesus, everything will be fine.

I am telling you, let Jesus change your life and watch all hell break loose around you. Nevertheless, it is worth it! How much more effective Christians would be against the devil if only their pastors had the gumption to present God's word in the

correct manner – by preparing you for the good fight of faith against your enemy. You have to be ready.

Job was no exception. Let's look at how Job reacted when his spiritual protective fence was removed and Satan was permitted to attack Job, his family, his servants and his livestock. Let's look at how Job came through his trials, so that we can find something in tonight's teaching that we can apply to our lives when we are tested.

'And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto the Satan, 'Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect man, and upright man, one that feareth God, one escheweth from evil.' Have you considered him? Satan had considered Job, but Satan knew that he could not touch him.

So in the next verse Satan says, **'Doth Job fear God for naught? Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?'** Everyone and everything that was precious to him - his family, his servants, his household, all the substance - everything was protected; Satan couldn't touch any of it. It almost makes me envious of Job. If I could just have the protective fence that Job had; if only Satan and his demons knew I was off limits.

Here, Satan is trying to convince God that the reason Job worships Him and fears Him is because of the blessings he has received. Because of the hedge that God had put around him. *'Take it away and see what happens.'* It was evident that Satan was challenging the motive behind Job's worship and service to God. Satan wanted to show that Job worshipped only because God had blessed him. But this was not the case, because Job served the Lord from his heart.

Now let us look at how Satan has the audacity to try to convince God to do something that he, Satan, wants done. You will read this in verse eleven. **‘But put forth thy hand now.’** Satan is not saying remove the protective hedge. He is saying, **‘put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face’.** He wants God to do his dirty work for him.

But God did not fall for Satan’s tricks. The Lord said in verse 12, **‘Behold all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thy hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord’.** In other words, God said to Satan, *‘I am not going to take the fall for your deceitfulness. However, I am going to allow it to happen so that I can prove Job’s trust in me. Satan, you do your own dirty work, because you are the evil one. You are the vicious one. You are the one who is out to destroy humanity. You are the one who is out to destroy any hope of humanity putting its Faith and trust in me’.*

So, in verse 13, **‘And there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away’.** Their protection was gone and now other tribes in the area were taking their livestock away. Part of Job’s wealth was disappearing. **‘Yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword.’** Not only did they steal his livestock, but they also killed his servants. **‘And I only am escaped.’** Satan allowed one servant to escape – but only to be the bearer of the bad news; to tell Job of the terrible events that had happened. I’m sure you’ve all had bearers of bad news in your life. You might have some right now. But remember, they are only instruments that Satan uses to inundate us with bad news. And if you do find yourself constantly barraged with bad news, you can assure yourself that Satan is trying to make you lose faith and hope.

Soon I am going to tell you why you should not lose hope. But in the meantime, let's continue. Verse 16, **'While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said The fire of God is fallen from heaven'**. Next, another bearer of bad news arrived. And this one was blaming God for a fire from heaven. This bearer of bad news was telling Job that God had sent fire from heaven to burn the sheep and consume the servants and that only he had escaped. But it was not God sending fire from heaven. How could the servant know what was coming from God? He could not. Satan allowed the servant to survive to use him as his agent; to give Job more bad news. Satan had his own purpose for this person, just as he had for the other bearer of bad news in the previous verse.

And now **another** bearer of bad news at verse 17. **'While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.'**

If that wasn't bad enough, we find at verse 18, **'While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters'**. Loss of wealth is nothing compared to the loss that verse 18 describes. Material possessions of this world come and go. But what Job lost in verse 18 was irreplaceable. **'While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house.: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young man, and they are dead; and I only escaped alone to tell thee'**.

How would you have felt? Death came to all of his sons and daughters. And with those deaths went any hope of future generations coming forth from that

family. It would have devastated me and I'm sure it would devastate you. How would those of you with children react if all your children were suddenly gone?

Now you understand why Satan was trying to convince God to do his dirty work. Not only is Satan the accuser of the brethren, but he also wants to be able to accuse God of all wrongdoing and evil that happens to us here on earth.

So how did Job react? What did he do? Verse 20 tells us. **'Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped.'** ... that was what he did. He worshipped God. Despite all the trials and tribulations visited upon him so far, Job had not lost his faith in God. Job hadn't blamed God for his situation or complained that it was unfair or unjust. He had lost everything. His children. His servants. His wealth. All were gone. Nevertheless he fell down to the ground and worshipped. He did not worship Satan; he worshipped God.

I only pray that through my trials, and through yours, that we all reach the same point that Job was at that time. He didn't stay there, but at this point, he still had it together. I can only pray that when my trials come, that I stop and remember to worship the Lord; that I stop and remember how great an honor it is to be a servant of His and to worship Him. That I thank Him for His grace. That I thank Him for His son. That I thank Him for the blood He spilled for my life. That I fall on the ground and worship and praise Him.

So up to this point, Job had it together. I don't know how I would react under all of this pressure. Perhaps you could ask yourself how you would react if you were under the same pressure. When you read through the verses in Job it sounds as though one bad event happens after another. And they did, but there was a time interval between each of these terrible events. There was enough time for Job to develop a bitter and angry attitude towards God but there is no record of that - up to this point. I know that if those of you who are parents had to

see your children suffering with a disease or illness, you would wish it could be you, not them. That you would take their place in an instant.

But Job - even when the worse possible imaginable thing happened to him, he still held it together. He fell to the ground and he worshipped and said, **'Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord had taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord'**. **'In all of this'**, verse 22 in this chapter, **'Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly'**. Not an easy accomplishment. Few of us could do it without complaining.

Now I have read many books on Job and half of them spend time criticizing him, yet these same authors could not even walk a mile in his footsteps. How quickly they put Job down when he shows some weakening of his Faith and begins to question the events that have transpired.

Let us continue. **'Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves to the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.'** So after all of the events that took place, Satan had still not been successful at getting Job, using modern terminology, to backslide and fall away from God.

Verse two, **'And the Lord said unto Satan, ' From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro from the earth, and from walking up and down in it'**. Verse 3, **'And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, that feareth God, and that escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him, to destroy him without cause.'**

So many things happen in life when we want to say '*Why? I did not do anything wrong to deserve this!*' Satan doesn't care! He doesn't care because his main purpose is to destroy our faith in God. He does not need a reason. He does things without cause, for one reason only, and that is to break the faith connection and separate us from our Lord.

Verse four, '**And Satan answered the Lord, and said, skin for skin, yea all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thy hand**'. Once again, Satan is trying to get God to turn against Job. '**But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thy hand; but save his life.**' God is telling Satan that he can do what he wants with Job now, but that he cannot take his life. Satan took his sons' lives, his daughters' lives, his servants' lives but he cannot take Job's life. Why would God allow this to happen?

To begin to answer that question, we go to verse seven and, '**So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown**'. His body was diseased with pain and suffering.

Verse eight describes Job scraping himself with the pieces of broken pots. In that same verse, he sat down among the ashes, in despair. How many times in your life have you despaired? Crying in your own sorrow when I guarantee that it's unlikely you've been through what Job had been through. Of course that doesn't change, one iota, the problems that you are enduring - especially if what you are going through seems like the end of the road with no hope of deliverance. Satan tries to make you question, '*Where is my God?*' Every malicious thought comes into your mind to curse God.

Verse nine, '**Then said his wife unto him, Doest thou still retain thy integrity? curse God and die**'. There is no joy in being married to someone

who thinks that following God is too hard. When it starts getting tough they accuse you of doing something wrong and believe that you are **both** paying the price. I trust that you won't attach yourself to someone with that attitude. Unfortunately, Job did. Instead of being a source of strength for Job, his wife did the worse thing possible. She tried to get Job to curse God and die.

If you don't think that Satan didn't have control over her mouth, then I cannot teach you anything about spiritual warfare. His wife was being used as a tool of Satan at Job's time of need. What a thing to say, '*Curse God and die*'. But Job was wise enough and still with enough of God in him, to tell this vicious woman in verse ten, '**Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all of this did not Job sin with his lips**'. Putting flesh and blood to this story, Job had lost his children, his servants, all of his wealth. His body had been attacked to the degree that he was not even recognizable to those friends who were approaching him. He had boils from head to toe; sores scraped by pieces of pots. I cannot even imagine the pain associated with that! The afflictions he must have suffered from head to toe. He was one open sore and exposed to excruciating pain.

However, even his wife could not change the way he trusted His Lord. Next along came three friends to sit with him for seven days. Sadly, these friends were simply more instruments of Satan, sent to try to confuse and misdirect Job's thoughts. How many people throughout your lifetime have come to you and tried to reason with you? Tried to make sense of your trials? Tried to put the blame on you, as Job's friends did, saying, '*Well you must have sinned. So therefore, because you sinned, you must pay the price*'.

Condemnation upon condemnation was given to Job as a theory for his problems and suffering. Stop trying to figure out why things that bring you pain have happened. Things happen to you because we are fighting a spiritual war. We

are fighting against beings we cannot see or feel. And they definitely have the power to influence the people around you. Starting in verse eleven chapter two, we see Satan using Job's three friends to mislead and discourage him.

The bearers of bad news could not destroy Job; the boils and sores could not destroy Job; his wife could not destroy him. Now he has these friends and they were not ordinary friends. They were influential men of Job's time. They came from different places. They were his peers - people with wisdom and advice that others would stop and listen to. These people were as close to Job as anyone could be.

I believe, teaching the way I do about spiritual warfare, that they were instruments of the devil. They would be mouthpieces for the devil and their role was to try to turn Job away from God. It is amazing to me how Job was able to keep it together under the many influences that joined to try to break him down.

To see how Job reacts to all the tragedy and pressure, let's move on to chapter 23 verse three, '**Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat**'. God came to Job's rescue because, through it all, Job still wanted to find his God. Verse six, '**Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me**'. Job becomes argumentative but still has trust in God. Job realized that if he could be face-to-face with God, God would strengthen him. Right or wrong about the way, Job held on with enough faith to believe that if he could find his God; if he knew where He was, he knew that God would strengthen him. How much more fortunate we are. Jesus will never leave or forsake us. Job did not have that promise.

Now to verse eight. '**Behold I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:**' Job is a desperate man. Verse nine, '**On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on**

the right hand, that I cannot see him'. Verse ten and we are given the all-important explanation of why God came to Job's rescue. God had had enough of the nonsense that was going on with Job's friends. God became even more tired of the nonsense and the evilness that Satan was accomplishing. Even though He had to realign Job's thinking, He still was waiting for one important thing to happen. Verse ten, even though I know he will strengthen me, and I'm desperate, if I could find him, even though I cannot, **'But he knoweth the way'**. God knows where I am. I might be lost, but God is not. **'But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.'**

I am convinced that if Job hadn't come to that understanding, confessing with his own lips, he probably wouldn't have been delivered. God is waiting to see how we react when our trust in Him is tested. What have I been saying over the last 20 messages? It takes Faith! What is the definition of faith? As my mentor used to say, *'Action based on belief and sustained by confidence'*. I would like to add; *'You trust in God's character because He knows what is best for you. You trust in His word because He said it and He will do it. And you trust in His timing no matter how long it takes. He does come through'*.

'But He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.' It's nothing new. Go to first Peter, verse seven, chapter one. It talks about the many and various temptations. Then it goes on to the trial of faith, your faith, my faith and even Peter's faith. **'That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold.'** Back in those days, gold was the most precious commodity. **'being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.'**

Now go to verse nine. **'Receiving the end'**, a better translation is receiving the result of your faith, even the salvation of your souls or your eternal life. Faith tried in the fire, the fiery furnace of life and circumstances, with the result that

Faith, praising and honoring God, is more precious than gold. It is the same in the Old Testament as in the New. Moreover, this is why you see glimpses of hope after you read all of the chapters of Job's life and understand why God came to his rescue.

Job recognized that God still knew where he was and that when God had tried him to see what he was made of, that Job should come forth as gold when tried in the fire. In today's language God wants to see what we are made of – not just cheap words or thin performance.

So now to the end of the story. God came to Job's rescue. God had enough of Job's friends and intervened.

Go to chapter 42, verse two. Then Job went to the Lord and asked, after God straightened him out '**I know that thou canst do every thing and that no thought can be withholden from thee**'. In other words, '*You are the almighty powerful God. How dare I question You?*' How many times have I questioned God? How many times have you? There is no room for that in the faith walk in Christ. Sure, doubts try to slip in, just as I said in the spiritual warfare messages. Doubt is one of the methods Satan uses to make us question God.

Verse five, '**I have heard of thee by the hearing**'. Job heard God's voice. As it says in Romans, '**Faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the word of God.**' '**But now mine eye seeth thee.**' What a record we have. Even though we have not seen Christ, we understand what He did for us. Verse six. '**Wherefore I abhorre myself, and repent.**'

Job turned himself around. He stopped listening to outside influences and started listening to God. And God saw a true, sincere, repenting heart. Well thank God for our mediator, Jesus Christ, who sits in for us. Let us remember to keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ, because he is the way, and he is the life.

In addition, do not fall into the same trap as Job did with outside influences. Let us forever keep our eyes focused on Christ. Keep hearing the words of faith. Keep applying the words of faith. Keep recognizing that you are a sinner saved by grace. We are not going to be perfect, but we are working towards the completion. Even though the trials and circumstances come our way, we will not take our sight off Him. He is the author and finisher of faith. He went before us, so He could take the keys of death and hell away from Satan; so He could shut the mouth of the accuser, finally, for us.

Do not listen to those preachers, family or friends who condemn you or beat you down when things start going wrong in your life. They are misleading – even if you have done something wrong. They forget that Christ covered our sins with His precious blood. All you have to do is focus your eyes back on Him.

We're now back to asking why the righteous suffer. Why did Job suffer? *'The pressing question about Job is, will the righteous praise even in tough times?'* I would like to add a couple of other questions here. *'Will the faithing ones also praise God even in tough times? Will the righteous or faithing ones worship God in the midst of adversity?'* So why do the righteous, or those I call the faithing ones, suffer?

The answer is that the faithing ones suffer because God, according to His infinite wisdom, chooses us to suffer to test our faith, to see if it is more precious than gold. Initially, it might appear unjust but, in the book of Job, the reader is allowed behind-the-scenes to see God's higher purpose behind Job's suffering. Although Job lost a great deal through his soul-crushing experience, he gained far more than he lost.

And he also gained back the worldly gifts that he had lost. I did not read to you the part where Job became wealthier than before. He had seven more sons and three more daughters. Throughout this fiery trial, he persevered and became an

even stronger and more mature believer in God's word than before his attack by Satan.

Always bear in mind that we are pitted between the kingdoms of life and death. We are in the battlefield of an invisible war between the two unseen worlds. Satan is always pressing to destroy God's plans by attacking the human race, especially the imputed righteous ones faithing in God's word. Honor is given to God when we endure suffering because of the faith we have in His word and in His son. Remember what God is doing when we go through our trials, and come out more precious than gold. God is shoving Satan in the face saying, *'You were hoping that they would fail and turn on me, but only you and your evil ways failed. They did not fail because they trusted in my word and me'*.

As I grow and mature as a faithing Christian, my one hope is that I will learn to trust God more, day-after-day. We are in a spiritual war but we have the tools to become victorious. We just have to use them and trust in God's word. Let us keep on faithing in His word and come forth as gold.

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