

THE PERSEVERANCE OF JOB

When all seemed lost, Job held fast to his integrity. He is a shining example of what it means to LIVE IT.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ We read in Job's story that he persevered through a trial that should have broken him.
- ❖ His situation was a direct result of a conversation between God and "The Accuser" (Satan).
"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil[?]'"
(Job 1:8).
- ❖ Of course, Satan then accused Job of ulterior motives: Job, he says, is faithful only because of the blessings and protection of God (Job 1:9-10). But just as God can put a hedge of protection around us, He can also remove it, as we see in Job 1:12 and 2:6. So, as God permitted, Satan set to work (Job. 1:13-19).
- ❖ Imagine Job's sense of loss: 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, along with the servants looking after them – gone Then, the most devastating news: all his children have died.
- ❖ Yet here is Job's response to these tragic events: He ...arose, tore his robe...shaved his head...fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.'" (Job. 1:20-21)
- ❖ Then, God allows Satan to take Job's health (Job 2:7-8). And the *one* person Job should be able to turn to – his wife – makes an outrageous suggestion: Forget about your integrity! Free yourself from all this pain and misery. Just "curse God and die" (Job 2:9).
- ❖ But Job's response to her is, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"
- ❖ It seems like Job is on another level of spirituality. All of this is happening to Job and yet the Bible tells us that "In all this Job did not sin with his lips" (Job 2:10).
- ❖ But Job's tune soon changes. At the end of chapter 2 his three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) come to visit him and they sit with him in silence for seven days as they realize the extent of Job's suffering.
- ❖ After seven days Job begins to talk. He curses the day he was born and wonders why he didn't perish at birth. Job is beginning to see death as a relief from his suffering (.
- ❖ Now, surely, Job's friends will provide support and comfort. Surely, they will pray with him, maybe sing a few hymns, read a few encouraging scriptures....
- ❖ Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a tells us that "Two are better than one...¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his companion."
- ❖ Instead, based on what they believe to be wisdom and a correct understanding of God, Job's friends

KEY SCRIPTURES: Job 1 and 2

- condemn him and accuse him of being a hypocrite, obviously being punished.
- ❖ As time passes, Job seems to come to the end of his rope. So what keeps him from completely giving up and taking his wife's advice?
- ❖ The hope of seeing God kept pushing Job forward. His hope of standing in front of God and having an opportunity for vindication drove him to persevere through the pain and the loss.
- ❖ Two other factors can sometimes be overlooked when we get to Job's – and our – restoration story, but it is important that we take note of them.
- ❖ One of these factors was that he had an encounter with God.
Then Job answered the Lord and said: "... ³ You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' ...I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.... I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." (Job 42:1-5).
- ❖ Another factor is forgiveness (Job 42:7-10). Job's friends were instructed by God to go to Job and request that Job pray for them. But in order for Job to pray an effective prayer for his friends he had to first FORGIVE them.
- ❖ Job's trial gave him a new understanding of God. He saw that God and His purpose are supreme and he was willing to accept God's plan for his life – which included suffering.
- ❖ What the enemy meant for evil was turned around for good. It drew Job closer to God rather than driving a wedge between them.
- ❖ Job's ultimate goal was to see God – be it a reward for righteous living or an opportunity for vindication. When there was no rational reason, when all seemed lost, Job held on to integrity – a shining example of what it means to LIVE IT.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share examples of things that can cause people to lose hope and even possibly "curse God and die" – spiritually, if not physically.
2. Do you in any way relate to the reactions of a) Job's wife and b) his friends? In a similar situation, how do you think you would react?
3. Who in the Bible or in history encourages you that perseverance is possible and rewarded?
4. Share a song and/or scripture that strengthens you when you are tempted to give up.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me understand that trials in my life remind me You are in control; they build my trust in, and relationship with, You.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

⚡ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Who in the group can hold their breath the longest, stare longest without looking away/laughing, or...? [choose another endurance challenge]

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>
PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Families: for love, unity, health, financial blessings, worship in our homes etc.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FEBRUARY

Friday 5: Faith Family Prayer @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 7: "Lord's Supper" @ 11:00 a.m. service

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

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
They shall walk and not faint
Teach me, Lord, teach me, Lord to wait

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 31, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."
James 5:11 NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

1901 Jane St, Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9
Phone: 416-244-4898
Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com
Website: www.faithsanctuary.com