Trusting God Through the Tough Times

(The Patience of Job)

The Book of Job and Selected Scriptures

6-23-2019



INTRODUCTION:

Job's Character - 1:1-5

Job's Calamity - 1:6 - 2:8

***Job lost it all; yet he endured and remained faithful to God.**

I. Job believed: God is <u>fair and just</u> to all (1:21, 2:10)

II. Job believed: God is in <u>full control</u> over all (12:9-25, 14:5, etc.)

III. Job believed: "God is <u>worthy</u> of my <u>trust</u>." *(13:15-16; 14:14-15)*



IV. Job believed: God has a <u>good purpose</u> (23:10)



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Job was <u>one of three notable righteous men</u>.

Job's righteousness is compared to that of Noah and Daniel (Ezek. 14:14, 20).

Ezekiel 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Job's Calamity - 1:6 - 2:8

Job lost his prosperity, his loved ones, and his physical health.

***Job lost it all; yet he endured and remained faithful to God.**

James 5:11 - **"Patience"** = the ability to <u>remain under</u> pressure; to <u>withstand</u>; to endure.

Note: the relationship between faith and patience (Ja. 1:3).

Believers endure by faith alone. Faith is the victory!

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

What beliefs enabled Job to endure to the end?

I. Job believed: God is <u>fair and just</u> to all (1:21, 2:10)

A. Job said: *"I am fortunate to have anything at all."*

"I came into the world with nothing and I will leave with nothing! So <u>anything</u> I have is a <u>plus</u>!" (1:21a)

Wrong philosophies:

The world (and the things in it) exists for me

Everything exists for God and His glory.

I am worthy of more or better than I have

Often we are discontent (dissatisfied) because we view ourselves as being worthy of more than we have.

Everything we have (that could be considered good) is by grace and ultimately comes from God.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

*Everything we have is graciously on loan to us from God (we are simply stewards)

- Our Health
- Our Talents
- Our Ability to gain wealth
- Our Possessions
- Our Children

Every day we possess those things should be viewed as a day of God's grace.

A warning concerning wealth:

1 Timothy 6:7-11

For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

1 Timothy 6:17

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

B. Job said: *"I am not the owner of anything; God owns it all."*

"Since it is God who ultimately gives us what we have, He has the <u>right</u> to take what He chooses" (1:21b)

1 Chronicles 29:11
Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Isaiah 43:1
But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.
Isaiah 43:7
Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Psalms 24:1
The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

1 Corinthians 6:19
What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

C. Job said: *"I don't expect life to be a bowl of cherries."*

"If God has given me the good things I <u>don't</u> deserve, certainly He is fair in giving me the calamity I <u>do</u> deserve." (2:10)

Don't ever ask God to give you exactly what you deserve. If we all got what we truly deserve, we would be in Hell right now!

II. Job believed: God is in <u>full control</u> over all (12:9-25, 14:5, etc.)

Job said: *"Since God is in sovereign control of everything,*

- *He holds all (v. 10),*
- *hears all (v. 11),*
- *knows all (v. 12),*
- *has power over all (v. 14-25),*
- *and He has determined all (14:5)."*

Job believed in the sovereignty of God.

What is sovereignty?

God's sovereignty is "the exercise of His supremacy" (Pink).

It describes His authority over all creation. His rulership, His authority, His throne.

God is "subject to none, influences by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases" (Pink).

As God's love would describe the heart of God, God's omniscience would describe the mind of God, it is God's sovereignty that describes the will of God.

God says, "I will do all my pleasure" (Is. 46:10). God is working all things "after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11).

Words that describe God's sovereignty:

1. "The most high God" (Gen. 14:20)
2. "The God of gods (Dt. 10:17)
3. "The Lord of lords" (Dt. 10:17)
4. "King" (Ps. 29:10; 47:2, 3, 7, 8)
5. "Judge" (Ps. 75:7)
6. "Ruler"
7. "Lawgiver" (Is. 33:22)
8. "The Author and Finisher"

"Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine" (Job 41:11)

God is sovereign over HEAVEN & EARTH (Deut. 10:14-17)
(God is in control of the universe)

God has every right and ability to be sovereign over creation because He is the Creator of it (II Ki. 19:15).

God is called: "Possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19)
The harlot Rahab admitted: "The LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (Josh. 2:11).

God is sovereign over <u>KINGS & NATIONS</u>
(God is in control of emperors and empires)

God is in control of kings

God is "He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity" (Is. 40:22-23).

SEE: Prov. 21:1 - "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD. . ." (cp. Ezra 6:22, 7:27).

It is God who removes kings and sets up kings (Dan. 2:21).

God is in control of nations (Deut. 32:8, 39)

Don't seek <u>exaltation</u> from men, but from God (Ps. 75:6-7).

"The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble" (Ps. 90:1).

Every knee will one day bow (Is. 45:28).

God is sovereign over the lives of <u>EACH INDIVIDUAL</u>
(God is in control of all that has breath)

Moses called the LORD - "The God of the spirits of all flesh"

God Himself declared: "Behold, all souls are mine" (Ezek. 18:4).

"We are clay, He is the potter" (Jer. 18:6).

Man's <u>personality</u> and <u>abilities</u> from conception are in His hands
(Ps. 139:13-16; Ex. 4:11)

Solomon observed "that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the <u>hand</u> of God" (Eccl. 9:1).

No one has any strength unless God allows it; no one has any wealth, fame, wisdom or power unless God allows it.

As Jesus said to Pilate, who thought he had power to either crucify or release Jesus: "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." (Jn. 19:11a)
Man's <u>circumstances of life</u> are in His hands

God "hath determined the times before appointed" (Acts 17:26).

Man's very breath and heart beat are in His hands

In God's "hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10).

". . . None can keep alive his own soul" (Ps. 22:29).

". . . I have the keys of death and hell" (Rev. 1:18).

Jesus has all authority (Mt. 28:19) over:
1) the timing of death, and
2. the place of the deputed death

God is sovereign over the SALVATION of men
(God is in control of man's eternal destiny)

God alone chooses how He will save (Eph. 1:3-11)
(God's sovereignty and the plan of salvation)

God alone chooses whom He will save (I Thes. 2:13; Rom. 9:14-29)
(God's sovereignty and the people of salvation)

God is sovereign over FUTURE EVENTS
(God is in control of what lies ahead)

NOTE: The connection between God's pre-determined plan and His foreknowledge (Acts 2:23)
Isaiah 41:4, 42:9, 46:10, 48:5, 6

Acts 15:18 - "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."

"Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commanded it not?" (Lam. 3:37).

Because God is sovereign:
1. He needs no permission to do what He wants.
2. He goes to no one for advice.
   (There is no higher court of appeal than God)
3. No one changes or interrupts His plan
4. Nothing happens by accident.
5. Nothing catches God off guard.
6. Nothing surprises God.

III. Job believed: "God is worthy of my trust."

A. Job determined to trust God right up to death (13:15-16)

B. Job knew he would <u>not</u> be <u>forgotten</u> by God (14:14-15)

C. Job knew he would be <u>resurrected</u> by God (14:14-15; 19:25-27)

Example - Hymn, "It Will be Worth It All"

IV. Job believed: God has a <u>good purpose</u> (23:10)

Job said: *"I know that God is purifying me."*

Romans 8:28
And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

A. God's good purpose works everything out for good (v. 28)

1. Our confidence in God's good purpose ("We know")
"We know" - an intuitive knowledge; a full and complete confidence.

2. The completeness of God's good purpose ("all things")

"All things" - would include all types of suffering (remember suffering is in view in context - v. 17, 18).

[Tragedies, natural disasters, physical impairments, etc.]

We may not be able to see how it will turn out for good because we are only looking at one piece of the puzzle. But God has an overall "purpose" (v.28b).

3. The harmony of God's good purpose ("work together")

"Work together" - Each event, circumstance, or person that God puts into our life will blend together and produce a good outcome.

4. The faithfulness of God's good purpose ("for good")

"For good" = not merely good in the present life (v. 29), but ultimately in the life to come (v. 30).

Our life many times may seem like it is going in circles, but like a winding staircase, "each step is higher than the preceding one, and it is still upward!" (Thomas, p. 225).

If you are walking with God and in His will, everything (even "suffering" - cp. Ro. 8:17, 18) will turn out for good in the end.

EX: Joseph: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meat it unto good" (Gen. 50:20).

God said: People like Daniel and Nehemiah were carried away captive "into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. For I will set Mine eyes upon them for good. . ." (Jer. 24:5, 6).

5. The restriction of God's good purpose ("to them...")

This promise can only be claimed by a certain group of people. It only applies to a specific people. This promise is not for

everyone!

Who is this promise for?

1) "To them that **love** God"

2) "To them who are the called..."

These two phases describe a genuine believer from two angles:

--From man's vantage point - We will love God.

The phrase: "To them that love God" is emphatic in Greek, being first in the sentence.

"Loving God" is an evidence of real salvation.

"...For love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God"
(I Jn. 4:7).

"...God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and god in him"
(I Jn. 4:16).

"we love Him, because He first loved us"
(I Jn. 4:19).

I Cor. 16:22 - "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha"

--From God's vantage point - He called (invited) us.

"The called" are: Those whom God invited to salvation (Ro. 1:6, 7) by means of the gospel (II Th. 2:14) and those who accepted His invitation (Mt. 22:14).

"Purpose" - basically refers to God's plan. The word literally means: "To place before" or to "set a course in advance."

Life is not haphazard chance, nor fate for the child of God. Rather, our lives follow the course that has been established by God.

B. God's good purpose leads us to Christ-likeness (v. 29)

"For" - the word "for" expands upon the fact that God works all things out for good in fulfilling His purpose (plan).

To "foreknow" = to know in advance or beforehand (cp. I Pet. 1:2)

Our lives are to be formed into Christ-likeness.

This is God's plan for our lives here and now, not merely in the future.

When we were saved, we became God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good

CONCLUSION:

See: James 5:7-11

Some would say, "If God is so compassionate and merciful, why didn't He protect Job from all the suffering to begin with?"

Answer: We don't know (with our finite minds) all the mysteries of God's workings, but we do know this:
1) God was glorified 2) Job was purified (Job 23:10)

Job's endurance was rewarded (42:10-17).

Hymn - "It's Just Like His Great Love"

Hymn - "Rejoice in the Lord"