GOD LOVES YOU AND HE CARES

**DON’T LET SATAN HAVE YOUR FAITH**

**1Pe 4:12** ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some **strange** thing happened unto you:

Peter wrote that we are **Kept** by the power of God through FAITH. He goes on to say - **1Pe 1:6** ¶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a Season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (The Greek word here for temptations is peirasmos which means the trial of man’s fidelity, integrity and virtue through adversity, affliction and trouble)

 **7** That the **trial** of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

As I begin this Newsletter, I want to say – God cares about each and every one of His children great or small, no matter who we are, where we’ve been, or what we’re going through. Our trials do not change God, nor does it change His plan and love for us! Though many times when we are suffering and going through trials, we begin to question! It’s in these times of difficulty of enduring hardship and trouble that the Enemy comes to afflict our mind. The Devil is clever and timely in his attacks – he uses our problems and sufferings when things are going bad or wrong to fill our minds with doubt! That’s his chief objective! He knows that time is of the essence and when time lingers on and on in a trial and nothing changes but seems to grow worse, we begin to question – Why O Lord, where are you, what’s wrong? Why is this happening? Will things ever change? Will it get any better? Do you know where I am?

After a while, the trial and the battles then turn inward into the very heart and soul and this is the critical point where we wrestle with our very Faith - Am I really called and anointed and in God’s Will? Am I important anymore to God and His work? Am I still important to others?

Everything we have known, believed, and received in the Lord is now being put to the test and going through the fire! We are now in a lull and a season of testing. This is when the enemy comes to hide from you all your past victories and

times God has used you to help and bless others. You forget the anointing of God’ presence and the good you have done for the Lord; the Enemy blinds you to all the good because you’re focused on the trial. Because you are suffering and going through trial, or may be suffering affliction, weak or broken in body does not mean God has left you, You are still His child, His vessel, His anointed and you are still important to Him and the body of Christ.(Praise God!)

 Don’t look down on yourself, the Devil wants you to develop a low self-esteem and a sense of worthlessness – (I’m of no use anymore) the enemy says “you’re no good!” This is exactly where the Patriarch Job found himself! Here was a righteous man who loved the Lord, he sacrificed to God every day and prayed for his children and family! He had a heart of giving and was a blessing to others, reaching out and helping them when they were hurting and in need. (Pause this Newsletter now dear reader before you read any farther, take your Bible and read the 29th Chapter of Job’s book and see how strong and good of a man he was! Job in his own words recounts how God’s hand was upon him and all that he had before his Trial hit! It will help you to better understand the severity of this man’s test and how he processed it! You will see his struggles how he suffered through mind battles to Hold on to his Faith! None of us are above temptation. We all have our human faults, we get weak and are subject to failures if we don’t maintain a strong Faith and Hold on to God! We will never understand everything in life, each of us have our own cross to bear; we have our own battles and struggles.)

Some of you can identify with Job, maybe not to the extent of his suffering and loss but you have had major problems, battles and afflictions in your life also! You who desire to know the Lord and serve Him better, take this Newsletter and make a Bible study out of it. You will be able to see every angle and sly way that Satan uses to come against your soul. Remember, he has a voice! He will come to attack the physical, mental, and spiritual – HE WANTS TO TAKE AWAY YOUR FAITH!

LOOK VERY CLOSE AT JOB’S TRIAL

 But now the day comes when Job would enter the hardest trial he would ever go through. Everything he had known about God would go through the fire, his theology and belief in the Lord would be put to the test! He was a strong man, all he’d ever known was the Lord’s Blessings. Our trials when we are suffering, have a way of hiding God’s face that we cannot make sense of what is happening or why.

We must remember that Job had no Bible that he could read for guidance; he had no Psalms or promises to meditate on; he had no Church, no caring Pastor or Sunday school teacher to give him guidance, words of inspiration or comfort! He lived totally by Faith in his Maker with a good conscience to do good for others. What could ever go wrong? Why should it ever go bad for a good man like this? By all human reasoning this is surely unfair with the feeling – this can’t be right O God! Lord, You know my life, you know the good I have done!

Bible Commentators believe Job’s trial went on for months. So WHY did Job go through this Trial? What was the purpose? Can anything good come out of it?

Remember how Satan came before the Lord and told God – “The only reason Job is serving you is because you are prospering him, but if you will remove the hedge that you have all around him and his family, his servants, animals and farm, I will take everything he’s got! I’ll take his wealth and I will strike his Health! I will cause him to curse you.

Did the Lord love Job? Yes He most certainly did! Was he a good man? Yes, God testified of him that he was Perfect, Upright, that he Feared the Lord and eschewed evil! So why did all this happen? The whole purpose to this trial was to prove to Satan that no matter what you do to my servant Job to make him hurt and suffer, he will not give up his integrity! Satan, my servant Job will keep on holding on and serving me! He will not quit or give up his Righteousness, **it’s in his Heart** and at the end of this trial I will show you that I will deliver, I will Bless him and his end shall be greater than it’s ever been! You cannot have his life or destroy him!

 (Listen dear reader – The devil knows that he can never ever turn God against you but he knows that he might could have a chance of turning you against God when pressures mount and suffering comes, that’s his desire! One thing is for certain – Satan knows that he can only go so far but God is Greater! He also knows that he is a defeated foe. The Lord knows that Satan loses in the end and he cannot overcome a Child of God who has the indwelling Holy Spirit! But you must know that your Victory depends upon your Faith and how much you Believe in God! Will you Trust Him? Will you maintain your desire? Will you Hold on and keep serving Him?)

Knowing what we know in our Bible today and how the story of this man turns out, we know there is a purpose to every trial that we go through. Children of God are Not losers! We may be suffering and going through it now, but good always comes out of it if we’ll continue in our service and remain committed! For one thing, it proves the Devil is a liar but God is Faithful and True! The Lord knoweth them that are His and in the end, when the dust settles and the fog of war lifts, God’s Love will still be standing strong – LOVE WINS!!! It will come out Victorious!! There is a blessing at the end of the trial for a true born again Child of God.

**Rom. 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.

**31** What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

I want to take you now through the chapters of the rough road that Job went down and show you how the enemy works. In Chapter One of Job, the Devil hits the family and property of this man, taking away all his servants and livestock. A whirlwind from the wilderness smote the four corners of his eldest son’s house where his 7 sons and 3 daughters were eating, causing it to collapse and take away their lives. In Chapter Two, Satan smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. We see him now sitting in a pile of ashes scraping his itching burning sores. His wife in her grief and loss and not understanding, looks at her husband and tells him to curse God and die! In his pitiful condition, he looks up at her and says – “You speak foolishly!” Later in the book we find she withdraws from him. How much lower can this man sink? Wouldn’t we question?

To understand and feel the pain and loss of this blessed man in his horrific trial, I want you now to listen to the things that Job says, what he utters out of his own mouth: Could it be that some of us have thought or said the same things in our trials?

In Chapter 3 Job wishes he had never been born “Let that day be darkness! Why didn’t I die from the womb, I would have been better off.” Paraphrasing, in Chapter 6 he says – “O that God would take his hand off me, just let me die and get me out of the way! I have no more strength, I’ve lost hope!” In Chapter 7 “I can’t sleep at night, my body is a mess; mine eye shall no more see good!”

Chapter 9 “I can’t even reason with God, I have no answers. If I’m wicked, then why labor I in vain? I can’t be clean enough for God, He’ll plunge me in the ditch. God is applying His rod to me!”

In Chapter 10 – “My soul is weary of my life. I will say to God – Do not condemn me, show me why thou contendest with me! Thou knowest that I’m not wicked. Thine hands have made and fashioned me, yet thou destroyest me.”

 Dear reader, I have prayerfully went through this Book of Job studying this man’s character and feelings, the things he thinks and says, to see how we identify with him when bad things happen and troubles come! The reason that I am giving you these scriptures is to show you the human side, how we can get so low that we can easily doubt God, doubt His love and mercy. You see - the Devil wants you to believe that God is against you, it is Him that’s causing you to suffer, it’s Him causing you pain, hurt and loss, that He doesn’t love you and He doesn’t care! But this is the enemy’s lie! We are all human and it shows the thoughts that the enemy comes to whisper and put in your head when you are in severe trials of affliction and loss. But remember, Job did not have the Holy Ghost dwelling inside him as we have today! He did not have the Comforter of God’s Spirit abiding in his heart. But thank God we have the Holy Ghost and the Inspired Written Word to guide us and give us Faith!

 Let’s go on: In Chapter 12 Job utters these words – “I am mocked of my neighbors because I call on God and He answers me not! The robbers prosper, God blesses the wicked and they are secure, but look at me!”

Chapter 13 – Look close now and notice in this chapter that Job begins thinking, he manages to reach way down deep inside his soul and with a little spark of Faith he utters these words: “Though He slay me, yet will I Trust in Him: I will maintain mine own ways before Him, (like I did before the trial); He also shall be my Salvation!” That was a little spark of Faith that kept him going for the moment - But notice: Just eight verses later after his declaration of Faith, he then utters these words: “Why God hidest thou thy face and holdest me for thine enemy? You’re making me reap the sins of my youth!” Do you see now the back and forth struggle between Faith and Doubt that he’s having in his mind? One minute Job is Trusting and believing God, the next he thinks the Lord is counting him as an enemy and making him pay for things he did wrong in his past!

 Children, it is a battle in this hour between the Flesh and the Spirit when we are going through hardships and trials! If we’re not careful, we too can doubt God! The Devil and enemy of your Soul is out to get your Faith. He wants to destroy your Faith in God and if he can paint God bad and uncaring in your mind by your trial, and because of your affliction make you feel unworthy and not any good, then he can cause you to let loose of the Lord and you won’t fully serve Him! You will let up, you’ll lose the press and fall back! It’ll be another ministry, testimony and work that’ll fold! It’ll be another light gone out for God and a witness lost if we give up!

 Let’s go on: In Chapter 14 – Job says, “There is hope of a tree if it be cut down that it will sprout again from the root, but it’s too late for me. God, your wrath is upon me and I am dying – O that you would remember me!!” He then utters these words: “All the days of my appointed time will I WAIT till my Change come!” Have you been in times of trial when it seemed God was silent? Do you see what happens, how the Enemy speaks to fill you with doubt? This is where Job was – He could not feel, see or hear from God!

Chapter 19 – It’s now been 19 chapters of suffering and mind battles of questioning and wondering; the Trial has lingered on for weeks, probably months. It has been so hard, not counting the harsh things his 3 comforters have said to him to drive him deeper. In the beginning of Job’s trial they came to weep with him and comfort him but after a while, the Devil entered the mind of these 3 men – Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar! Through the weeks of his hard Trial they find fault with this righteous man. They blame him for his suffering!

 I want you now to focus on Job’s 3 friends and listen closely to the cruel and judgmental words they said to him: “If you were innocent, you wouldn’t be dying Job, God is cutting you off; God’s chastening is upon you; If you hadn’t sinned, this wouldn’t be happening; If you were pure and upright, God would awake and help you, He would make your righteousness prosperous; The hypocrite’s hope shall perish Job!” Isn’t Job’s suffering, pain and loss enough to bear without being cast down? We can’t imagine the mind battle he had! Job felt isolated and all alone, on top of God being silent, no one understands his hurt! I’m down to nothing and all I have is my little bit of Faith and Hope in God. I have no one to lean on but the Lord!

(Dear reader, look at the harsh things that were aimed at this Blessed man whom God said was Perfect, Upright and Righteous! Be very careful what you think and say about others if you haven’t walked in their shoes! Be careful how you judge them. You don’t know their Heart, but God sees and He knows it! We can easily judge others, blame them, find fault and say things that can utterly crush the heart of a suffering Brother or Sister!; Our words can condemn, tear down and take away the Faith, Peace and the Hope of someone who is suffering!)

One of Job’s Comforters had the nerve to say – “Know that God is exacting on thee less than your iniquity deserveth! Repent Job and God will bless and restore you. Your triumph is short! You are righteous in your own eyes but your wickedness is great.” Can you now see the avenues how the enemy works, how he speaks to take away our Faith and Hope?

 In Chapter 19 – Job tells his false comforters - “You all have vexed my soul and broke me in pieces with your words, and you’re not ashamed. God has overthrown me and stripped me of my glory, He’s destroyed me on every side and taken the crown from my head, my Hope is gone! My kinfolks all left me and my friends are gone, they have forgotten me. My breath is strange to my wife, she has pulled away. We’re not close anymore.” **But Notice:** Now a little spark of Faith arises from deep inside Job’s heart and he utters these words: “I know my Redeemer liveth and though the skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God whom my eyes shall behold! My witness is in Heaven and my record is on High! My God knows all about me, He cares and I’m going to meet Him when all my troubles here are over! He knows my heart and grief. I know I’ve complained and He’s keeping a record, but He knows I haven’t turned bitter nor wickedly departed from Him.”

This blessed man, after uttering these words of confidence, relapses again into bleak oblivion. He’s lost his taste, he can’t rest or sleep, he looks at his frail body and the sores, he’s physically weak and mentally drained, he can’t see how anything good can come out of his situation. In Chapter 23 – He utters these words – “Oh that I knew where I might find Him and come even to His seat, I would utter my cause and fill my mouth with arguments. If He would only talk with me and I could understand what He would say to me!!”

Notice close what Job said in the next 5 verses:

**Job 23:8** ¶ Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

 **9** 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:

 **10** But **He knoweth** the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

 **11** My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

 **12** Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Job is coming to the conclusion: “I do not know, neither do I understand this Trial, I don’t see the purpose – **but** God does!

Do you remember dear reader what Satan told the Lord in the beginning? “Let me hit your servant Job, let me hit his body and touch all that he has and I will cause him to curse you!” But this blessed man held on through it all and 26 chapters later in his trial of suffering, he utters these words: **Job 27:3** All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

 **4** My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

 **5** Till I die I will not remove mine **integrity** from me.

 **6** My **righteousness** I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

(I’ve got to live with my Conscience! I will continue on; I will keep going, Trusting and serving God! I may be going through the Fire now, but I shall come out as Gold that is refined. I will not let up nor turn back. If I give up now, how will that look on the God that I have served! My wife is beholding me, my acquaintances, friends and servants are all watching. Everyone in the vicinity for miles all around knows and has heard about me and if I give in to Satan, all the good that I have ever done through the years will be forgotten, I’ll dissolve into history as a man who failed and the Enemy of my soul will win!)

 Can I say in ending – The world around us and our families are watching us? We are the only Bible they will ever read! We are God’s witnesses and His Light and if we fail, how do you think they will view the God we serve? It pays to patiently wait on the Lord! God had a blessing waiting on Job the whole time of his suffering and he didn’t even know it! Job would Hold on, the season of Trial would end, the Devil would be proven a liar and God would restore Job double what he ever had before. **Jas 5:11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. There is a Happy man in Heaven right now with his Children and family all because He Held on to his Conscience of Integrity and Righteousness! His Faith though strained with Pain Won the Victory and our God gets the Praise and Glory!! IT PAYS TO SERVE THE LORD! ***May God Bless Every one of My Readers!***