

## The Ultimate Test The Prosperity Test Job 1:1-5

Tests are a major part of our lives. Does God test us? Yes, and we can be ready. Over the next 5 weeks we will walk through the Old Testament book of Job and see how he responded to “The Ultimate Test.” In fact, this test was a combination of five, and today we look at the first test.

*“Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.” Psalm 26:2*

*“For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.” Psalm 66:10*

**Test:** to prove, examine, scrutinize, or refine – God tests us to prove the genuineness of our faith, not to himself, *but to us and to those around us*. The test is actually a gift.

### **Main Idea:** Passing the Prosperity Tests Is Harder Than You Think

*“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all people of the east. His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did continually.” Job 1:1-5*

### **Three Types of Prosperity That Will Test Our Faith:**

#### **I. Prosperity in Relationships**

*“There were born to him seven sons and three daughters...His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.” Job 1:2, 4*

In relationships, the test is to keep living between two tensions:

- **Neglecting Relationships:** God created us for connection (workaholism).

*“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8*

- **Idolizing Relationships:** Idolatry is valuing anything before God (kids).

*“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:37*

As God blesses you with a close family or circle of friends, it can be a test of prosperity in relationships. Will we value them properly?

#### **II. Prosperity of Resources**

*“He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all people of the east.” Job 1:3*

Material wealth is one of the greatest tests that we will ever face.

*“And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God...It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’”*

**Mark 10:23, 25**

*“As for what was sown among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and it proves unfruitful.”*

**Matthew 13:22**

*“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:20-21*

*“You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24b*

*“...give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8b-9*

How do wealthy people pass the test of prosperity of resources? We could walk away from our wealth and take a vow of poverty, but God has another way.

*“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

**III. Prosperity of Religion** *“And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did continually.” Job 1:5*

*“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration & renewal of the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5*

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

There’s evidence to support the idea that the hardest test Job faced was prior to what happens later in chapter one. Did he pass this test?

*“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.” Job 1:1*

While Job passed the Test of Prosperity, this message is not about how great a guy Job was...it’s about how worthy God is to have our full trust and devotion. So to wrap up this opening message of our series, consider this very important question:

**Is God Enough? Or is He a means to our desired end of forgiveness, peace, joy, prosperity, etc? We will wrestle with and answer that question, just like Job.**

#### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities**

- *New American Commentary: Job* – R.L. Alden (1993)
- *Be Patient* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Notes from My Bible* – D.L. Moody (1895)
- *The Spurgeon Study Bible* – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans (2019)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *The Wisdom Books: Job* – Chuck Swindoll (2023)
- *The Book of Job* – Ray Ortlund (2014)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax (2017)

