

# Trials of the Christian Life

## *The Struggle is Real*



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### When Feelings Conquer Our Faith

Remember back in week 1 of our study we looked at God's purpose behind allowing persecution and trials in our life: to grow our faith. Faith is the key to EVERYTHING concerning our walk with God (Heb. 11:6). In preparation for spiritual growth, there must be a "tearing down" before there can be a "building up". In other words our faith must be tested. Persecution is not your enemy in your walk with God, but rather your companion: **Phil. 3:10** - *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Over the last several weeks we have looked at the major ways in which our faith is tested and where our enemy seeks to defeat us: marriage, friend/family relationships, our job, our children. It is interesting to note that God allows persecution and trials in our life while this is also exactly where our enemy wants us – in the thick of the battle. So the key to victory, or defeat, lies in \_\_\_\_\_ we respond. What happens when we reach our breaking point?

- A. Job has reached his breaking point – Job 3:1-5, 11, 24.

Depression: A sinking of the spirits; dejection; a state of sadness.

Anxiety: Uneasiness; unceasing restlessness in sickness. Concern or solicitude respecting some event, future or uncertain, which disturbs the mind, and keeps it in a state of painful uneasiness.

- B. Satan uses outward attacks to attack us from \_\_\_\_\_:

- i. Job was stripped of his \_\_\_\_\_ (prosperity to poverty).
  - God blesses us with material goods, but the danger is growing to depend on them. Am I trusting in things or in God? – Ps. 20:7; Is. 31:1; Luke 12:15, 33-34; Matt. 6:31-34; 1 Tim. 6:10; Ecc. 5:10.
- ii. He was stripped of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Family (especially children) are a special blessing from the Lord. They are a support system in times of need – Ps. 128:1-4, 127:3. Who am I depending on?
- iii. He was stripped of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Not being able to do what we once did is devastating. Our physical, mental, and emotional states are affected – 3 John 1:2; 2 Cor. 12:7-10. Whose power am I depending on?
- iv. He was stripped of the \_\_\_\_\_ from his help meet.
  - Mrs. Job wound up being a discourager instead of an encourager – Job 2:9. Who am I anchored on? - Heb. 6:19.
- v. He was stripped of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - They also were of more help to Satan than Job – Ps. 41:9; Pro. 17:17, 27:6. Who is my best friend? – Pro. 18:24; John 15:14-15; Luke 12:4.

C. Satan knows that if he can successfully get to a person, remove their goods and comforts, remove the help and encouragement in their life, and upset and turn things “upside down” THEN he can distort their *thinking*, destroy their morale and *self-worth*, and pervert their view of the *love* of God.

i. Job loses his sense of worth:

- He wished he had never been born – Job 3:3.
- He wishes for God to end his life – Job 6:8-9, 11.

**NOTE:** He does NOT EVER \_\_\_\_\_ taking his own life!

ii. Job loses his \_\_\_\_\_:

- Only complaining of how great his grief is – Job 6:1-3, 7:11.
- The fiery darts of the enemy are perceived to be the arrows of the Almighty – Job 6:4; Ps. 18:14; Lam. 3:13; Ps. 38:2 (seen as punishment from God).

iii. Job loses his sense of God’s love:

- The man who proclaimed, “blessed be the name of the Lord” now cries in misery baffled at why God is punishing him – Job 16:11-13, 9:16-17, 7:13-21.

iv. Other examples:

- Samson & Delilah – Judges 16.
- John the Baptist – Matt. 11:1-3.
- \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Kings 18-19.
- Peter – Matt. 26:69-75.

If a man like Job, whom God boasted of, was overcome by his tribulation then what hope is there for us? How do we prevent our feelings from conquering our faith? How do we have victory over depression, anxiety, and a troubled perspective? \_\_\_\_\_.