

## JOB WALKED WITH GOD AND WAS TRIED

The life of the Patriarch Job is one of fear of God. Described by God Himself as His servant, a man with no equal on earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and abstains from and shuns evil (Job 1:8). Often, we mention Job as an example of patience, as in "The patience of Job." There is much to consider in what God described Job. His life brings to mind Paul's spiritual guidelines in his letters. In the letter to the Romans. He said, "I appeal to you therefore, brethren and beg of you in view of the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God which is your reasonable service and spiritual worship; love one another with brotherly affection, giving precedence and showing honor to one another, never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord" (12:1,10,11). Job walked with God, shinning the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23). One very important fact in Job's life was that God, the all- knowing God, knew that Job would be faithful to Him, when challenged with temptation to forsake Him. Job, in his unweaving integrity, was a man God trusted with a tremendous trial. One that we surely would fail, for where there is no understanding, ignorance dominates the feeling of man with doubt and fear and despair. When Job had lost most of his precious belongings, including his children, in perseverance of faith, he arose and rent his robe and shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshiped and said, "Naked came I from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord! In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly" (Job 1:20-22). That was a true faith in God.

Job's faith shone in the midst of his trials. His words of hope kept him secured in his faith when he uttered, "For I know that my Redeemer and Vindicator lives, and at last He will stand upon the earth and after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it I shall see God, Whom I, even I shall see for myself and on my side! And my eyes shall behold Him and not as a stranger!" (Job 19:25-27a). Job, in His utterance, spoke of the present and of the future concerning the resurrection of the saints. "One way or another, I will be healed here on earth and if I die now, I will be rewarded with life eternal when in heaven, I shall behold my Redeemer. For He knows the way that I take. When He has tried me, I shall come forth as refined gold." (Job 23:10). "I have not gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed and treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. But He is unchangeable, and who can turn Him? And what He wants to do, that He does" (vs.10,14). In short, Job confessed his enduring faith in God even amidst circumstances he himself did not understand. For while he was walking with God in communion with Him, this trial fell on him, for reason unknown. His wife told him to "Do you still hold fast your blameless, uprightness? Renounce God and die! But he said to her, You speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak What? Shall we accept only good at the hand of God and shall we not accept misfortune and what is of a bad nature? In all this, Job did not sin with his lips" (Job2:9-10). His unwavering love for God even in the midst of his trial, showed him to be genuine and steadfast in his faith. To him, God was God, unchangeable in ways Job could not comprehend. The wall of

anguish and despair did not separate him from His Redeemer, Who was going to reward him in His time.

Job walked with God and He trusted him to walk through the fire, so to prove his faithfulness to Him. Satan, who so much wanted to destroy Job and disprove God's All-knowing attribute, suffered major defeat. Job was in the battlefield without knowing it. Living as a Christian should live, under God's grace, Job excelled. For he did not have a Bible in those days to guide him. But Job had the fear of God guided by his faith in Him. Strong in his beliefs, he stood the test of time. Wrestling against the despotisms, against the powers, against rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere, he was properly dressed with God's armor. He resisted and stood his ground on those evil days; he had the belt of truth around his waist, the breastplate on his chest, his feet shod to stand firmly and ready against the enemy; he quenched the flaming missiles from the enemy through the shield of faith; and wore the helmet of salvation, which protected his mind; and he fought with the sword of the Spirit which was his knowledge of God. Job's prayers came up to God as part of the battle in his battlefield, for the battle was not his, but God's (personalized from the book of Ephesians 6).

What is required of us believers in the Lord today to overcome the devil and be victorious, is a life of unwavering faith, unwavering faithfulness, unwavering zeal for God and His Word. Our battlefield is the sanctification process the Holy Spirit leads us to. The flesh and the soul fight the spirit constantly for predominance. Since we are prone to fall into sin, they almost always win. However, perseverance and endurance of faith in submission to the Holy Spirit's sanctification will free us from the power of sin. Job, human as the rest of us, was above the circumstances he had to face. Never went under them, while suffering pains day after day. Added to his pains, his friends fought against him with hurtful words, piercing his soul, as they accused him of wrong-doing. Words come to us as music to the ears, but many times as a sword that penetrates our inner being, causing great psychologic trauma. Many have committed suicide as a result, for this kind of pain lasts a life time with consequences, shaping the way we think. Job, however, learned to forgive them and God rewarded him with healing and greater riches than before.

*"In a web article titled "Wife of Job: Apocrypha" by Hananel Mack, the author summarizes an apocryphal story from the Septuagint. The story holds that Job's first wife died and that the children of his life's epilogue came from a second wife, whom he married after his trials ended. In this story, Job marries Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, which joins him to the house of Israel. This would mean that Job lived between Abraham and Moses."*

Our trials today, if we do not faint before them, will bring us a recompense that is eternal in a bright future. Paul said, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us" (Rom. 8:18). So, I resound the Prophet Isaiah's words: "Arise and shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). Light and Glory have to do with the Lord. The Light and Glory of the Lord is YAHSHUA the Son of God, victoriously marching

to reward those who endured the test of time. Life is filled with hope in the presence of faith. Job could feel hope in his suffering in spite of losing the sight of it at times. But secured by faith, hope remained with him to the end of his trials. Our hope is based on God's promises that He will be with us to the end of time. Job did not have this written promise to go by, yet, he knew God in a way we do not know Him. For the substance of our faith is YAHSHUA, the Son of God, crucified and resurrected, preparing a place for us in heaven.

My friend, what is the substance of your faith? Is there a beautiful future waiting for you on the other side, when you leave this earth? Is your hope only in this temporal life? God offers you much better place where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal (Matt.6:20). Where your future is secure in His presence. YAHSHUA said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me" (John 14:6). Here you have it: the spoken eternal words of YAHSHUA resounding throughout eternity. Hear Him and follow the sound of His promises echoing salvation to whomsoever will.