

## Ultimate Trust

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**Job 13:15** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job is set before us in scriptures as the man with ultimate trials. We travel with Job across the landscape of his life and in most of this book it is a gray, dreary, featureless landscape indeed. Everything seems to be about dark valleys of discouragement and loss. Bible students throughout history have gone to the book of Job to take a look at sorrows born of loss and suffering. Job is a good book to find this in.

But, the book of Job is a book about another aspect of man's relationship with His Lord. These are pockets of gold and diamonds hidden in those depressing valleys that Job traveled. In them we find some of the most revealing truths about the abiding power of faith in God. We find the most telling testimony about how that faith enables believers to put their trust in God in the most destructive of times. Our text is a kind of brief sermon on the strength of spiritual resolve born of that trust. It is on this we want to focus today. Let us think about Job's awesome statement here and try to understand some of the things that his testimony implies about a believer's trust in the Lord.

### I. Such trust implies believing in the absolute power of God

- Job's unyielding trust means that if his total physical destruction comes he is confident that the Lord has power over even that.
  - ▶ When we think of the worst case scenario for our lives, do we acknowledge that such a scenario could not occur unless God ordained it and permitted it?
  - ▶ It was Satan who launched the vicious campaign against Job, but Job shows that his trust is in God; which means he is trusting in God's power to control all situations.
    - So, Job believes that in all situations, it is God in the background who has the ultimate power and the control
    - Illustrate by explaining backdraft fires in a burning building: The fire is what explodes inside, and out of, a room, but it is the hidden oxygen that controls the blaze that occurs. The very intensity of the fire is controlled and limited, or released by the oxygen

### II. Such trust implies believing in the unerring wisdom of God

- In the worst-case scenario that may happen in our lives, it is sometimes hard, sometimes impossible, to see the purpose or benefit in what is going on.
- Also, one of the greatest challenges to our faith is to be confident that what is unfolding in our lives is **exactly the right thing by the design of a God who cannot**

### **make a mistake.**

- ▶ Illustrate: A parable - A man once planned a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington D.C. He had spent his life in the farmlands of southern Virginia and had never traveled outside this region for anything. He went down to the railway station in his hometown and bought a ticket which would deliver him to Union Station in downtown D.C. When the day came to take the train ride, he and his wife were at the railway station in plenty of time. As the train pulled in and he started to board, his wife asked him, “are you sure we are going to get there okay?” The man answered, “Yes, dear. This train is traveling a set of railroad tracks which have been laid long ago to take people straight from here to Union Station in Washington, DC. I don’t know how to get there myself, but the railroad tracks do!” (The wisdom of God is like those railroad tracks. The trip of our lives will bring us to exactly the place God wills, because His wisdom is laid down in the counsel halls of eternity and that wisdom guarantees the route.)
- Such a trust sometimes demands that we ignore common wisdom offered by others
  - ▶ It was the human wisdom of Job’s wife which said, “Dost thou still retain thine integrity?”
  - ▶ Human wisdom tells us in times when our soul is tried beyond imagination, “you have a right to fly off the handle; you have a right to over-react. Nobody could expect you to be submissive to this kind of stuff.”
  - ▶ But the wisdom of God says, “this is the way, walk ye in it.”(**Isaiah 30:21**)
  - ▶ It was the human wisdom of Job’s wife which said “...curse God and die.” But it was the wisdom of God that said, “shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”
  - ▶ It may also demand that we ignore the uncertainty of our own carnal imaginings
    - Paul lets us have a sneak peek into just such an experience he had of discovering what it meant to ignore his own fleshly misgivings and to trust in the wisdom of God: (2Co 1:8-10) For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were **pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:** (as far as Paul could see, they were in such a bad place that death and all the terror associated with their experience was inevitable) 9 **But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God** which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver *us*; (they were put in these circumstances, and were allowed to get a clear view of what human wisdom concluded, so that they might experientially learn to trust in **His power and wisdom.**).

### **III. Such trust implies believing in the absolute goodness of God**

- Holding fast the absolute truth that God is altogether good is a very challenging thing
- We read of the goodness of God in scripture, such as: **Psalms. 136:1** “O give thanks

unto the LORD; for *he is* good....” And **Psalms 33:5** “...the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD,” "There is none good but one; that is, God" (**Matthew 19:17**).

- Such verses are absolute truths about the goodness of God, but, ultimately, the reality of such things for us personally comes down to experiencing that He is good, even in the worst of times. In such experiences we discover that Holy Spirit given trust in the Lord causes us to **know** that He is good; and so, His doings must also be good even if those doings bring us to death
- Our experience then becomes like David’s where, when he had gone through some terrorizing times at the hands of his enemies, he said (**Psalms 27:13**) *I had fainted*, unless I had **believed to see** the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- Our text is a standing testimony from a believer that says “I will trust that God is good even if He kills me.”

### **III. Such trust implies believing in the absolute commitment of God to the well being of His children**

- Job’s declaration of trust here echos Paul’s own testimony in **Rom. 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....”
  - I want us to reflect on the fact that when “good things” happen to us, we can amen this truth; but when setbacks, troubles, etc. happen to us we often lose that assurance.
- Our text speaks of a trust that says, “In the worst of times, I believe God has my best interests in mind.”
  - The old and well known **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm** is designed with its starting point being the premise of what Job reveals as his belief:
    - **Psalms 23:1 A Psalm of David.** The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
    - **Psalms 23:2** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
    - **Psalms 23:3** He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
    - **Psalms 23:4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
    - **Psalms 23:5** Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
    - **Psalms 23:6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.