

## DISCIPLESHIP

### Why Do We Believe?

There are many doctrines that are espoused in the Christian Church today. But why do we, as individuals believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? What is the basis for our trusting the Lord and what do we trust him to accomplish in our lives? One of the worst heresies in the Christian Church today is the “Prosperity Doctrine” that teaches true faith in Christ will bring material blessings as the primary sign of our righteous standing with God. It is a doctrine that entices the most base, most material desires within the heart and soul of individuals.

**HERESY:** A doctrine that leads someone astray from believing and trusting in God for any reason other than for the salvation of their souls and thus leads to hell.

#### **God and Satan:**

*Job 1:1-5—There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one that feared God, and turned away from evil. (2) And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. (3) His possessions also were seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. (4) And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one on his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. (5) And it was so, when the days of their feasting were finished, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

The first five verses of Job, Chapter 1 are a description of Job, his relationship with God, and some details of his family. Verse 1 states that Job was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and that he \_\_\_\_\_ God and turned away from \_\_\_\_\_. Verse 2 says that he had many \_\_\_\_\_. Verse 3 points out his \_\_\_\_\_ wealth and possessions. Verse 5 makes a note that when the family would eat together Job would sanctify (make prayerful intercession for them)

and he would rise up early and make a burnt \_\_\_\_\_ for each in case they might have sinned (interceding for his children in this way is an early example of what Christ does for us as believers today).

**Job 1:6-11** — *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. (7) And the LORD said unto Satan, From where come you? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it. (8) And the LORD said unto Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one that fears God, and turns away from evil? (9) Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Does Job fear God for nothing? (10) Have not you made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? you have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions are increased in the land. (11) But put forth your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.*

Verse 6 shows a gathering of spiritual beings (sons of God in this context is usually interpreted as angels) and Satan also came as part of the group. In verse 7 the Lord asks Satan where he came from and Satan replies that he has been going to and fro on the \_\_\_\_\_ and walking about on it. In verse 8 Lord points out the faithfulness of Job to Satan. Pay particular attention to the exchange in the next verses. First Satan poses a rhetorical question, “Does Job fear God for \_\_\_\_\_? Then Satan makes a startling accusation against God in the form of a question. He points out that God has made a \_\_\_\_\_ (a protective barrier) around Job, his family, and everything that belongs to Job. Satan then throws a challenge at God, put forth your hand now and touch all that he has and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you to your \_\_\_\_\_.

The startling accusation that Satan makes in these verses is that God has bought Job’s worship and faithfulness, and only as long as God blesses him with protection and material blessings will Job worship the Lord. In other words Job is saying that God is not worthy of being worshiped on the Lord’s own merits as God Almighty. There is an additional tricky proposition that Satan throws at God. He challenges God to turn his hand against a man who loves, worships, and fears him, but this God will not do.

In the verbal exchange Satan also questions Job's loyalty to God. He tells God take all these blessing away from Job and he will curse you to your face. In other words he will demonstrate that his faithfulness to God was purchased by the blessing of God. When that is gone, so is the worship and obedience of Job.

**Job 1:12-20** — *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself put not forth your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. (13) And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: (14) And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys feeding beside them: (15) And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone am escaped to tell you. (16) While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God has fallen from heaven, and has burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone am escaped to tell you. (17) While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone am escaped to tell you. (18) While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: (19) And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I alone am escaped to tell you.*

Satan had tempted God to do an unjust thing. He challenged God to turn \_\_\_\_\_ Job who had been faithful and upright. The Lord does not rise to the challenge. Instead he tells Satan that Job has been placed in Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ with one stipulation. God tells Satan that he cannot \_\_\_\_\_ (put forth his hand) or in other words do anything to kill Job. Verses 13 to 19 describe the series of calamities and losses that Job experiences. All his wealth was taken and then all his children died.

### **Dealing with Loss:**

**Job 1:20-22** — *Then Job arose, and tore his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, (21) And said, Naked came I out of*

*my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there: the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. (22) In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God with wrong.*

Verse 20 tells us that Job \_\_\_\_\_ (started doing the things that follow in these verses). Job tore his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his head and fell down prostrate upon the ground and \_\_\_\_\_ (PR: Joshua 7:6, 1 Kings 21:27-29, 2 Kings 2:12, 2 Kings 18:22-19:4) Verse 21 shows Job proclaiming that he came into the world naked or without \_\_\_\_\_. and that is the way he will die Then he declares the righteousness of God by declaring that what God has given he has the right to \_\_\_\_\_. Verse 22 declares that in all the ways he reacted to the terrible losses he did not \_\_\_\_\_ as he did not accuse God of doing anything \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question: During this pandemic many Christians have suffered great loss. Some have lost loved ones, husbands, wives, children, family, and friends. Others have lost all their material wealth. Businesses have closed. People have lost their jobs, their homes, their dreams for a good life, and struggle to find a way to just survive. The reaction has varied, some have wept but turned to God for solace and direction to find the light to show their path ahead. Others have struggled with their loss and not being able to understand how a good and loving God could let such things happen and in disappointment and confusion backed away from their commitment to the Lord. Others, in bitterness have cursed God and denied the Lord. How will you handle these things if they come upon you?**

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God is more concerned with our spiritual welfare than he is our physical well being. In this day and age judgment approaches our country because Christians have become lukewarm and abandoned the pure faith in Christ. God will begin to strip men and women of their material possessions, because those things have become the gods of their daily life in which they trust and it is a snare to their souls. By removing them God creates a situation where they will either turn back to him and trust him or curse him and turn away from him.

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***Job 2:1-8 (KJ2000)** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. (2) And the LORD said unto Satan, From where come you? (3) And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro on the*

earth, and from walking up and down on it. (4) And the LORD said unto Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one that fears God, and turns away from evil? and still he holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause. (5) And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man has will he give for his life. (6) But put forth your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face. (7) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in your hand; but spare his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot unto the crown of his head. (8) And he took himself a potsherd to scrape himself with; and he sat down among the ashes.

Here is another time when Satan comes before the Lord. God again points to Job as an outstanding example of being \_\_\_\_\_ (honest and just). Additionally God says that he holds fast his \_\_\_\_\_ (being honest in motive, word, and action). Satan then says that Job still worships and trusts the Lord in fear of his \_\_\_\_\_, but let him be personally afflicted and Job will \_\_\_\_\_ God to his \_\_\_\_\_. Satan is presuming that because Job has not suffered personal affliction touching him (his body) he still worships and obeys the Lord. There is the undeclared accusation against God that he is not worthy to be worshiped and obeyed just because he is the Almighty, but that worship comes from Job and those who believe in the Lord solely so they will not personally suffer injury (preserve their life and health). Again God gives Satan the authority to attack Job, and Satan hits Job with painful \_\_\_\_\_ from the sole of his feet to the crown of his \_\_\_\_\_. Job took a fragment of pottery (potsherd) to scrape himself with and sat down among the ashes. Sitting down in ashes was often a sign of mourning, but ashes were also used as an ancient healing ingredient to help dry out weeping sores and boils.

**Job 2:9-10** — *Then said his wife unto him, Do you still retain your integrity? curse God, and die. (10) But he said unto her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.*

Verse 9 has Job's wife accosting him and his refusal to accuse God of wrong. She asks, "Do you still retain your \_\_\_\_\_," and then tells him to \_\_\_\_\_ God and die. In a time that God brings judgment on a nation where both the good

(God's people) and evil will experience death, destruction, and devastation this is the temptation that Satan presents to all, curse God and die. How will we deal with that temptation when calamity comes our way?

**Job 3:1-4**—*After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. (2) And Job spoke, and said, (3) Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a male child conceived. (4) Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.*

Three of Job's friends had come to sit and console Job in his misery. Verse 3:1 shows Job's reaction to all that has happened to him. He \_\_\_\_\_ the day he was born. The birth of a child, particularly a male child in the society of his day was a momentous occasion that was celebrated with much fanfare, but Job declares it would have been better that no notice had ever been taken. Have you ever mourned some of the things that you have suffered so much that you regretted the day you were born and the things you suffered?

In the discussions with his friends the basic theme that follows is that God is moving against Job because of some sin he does not recognize

**Job 4:7** — *Remember, I pray you, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?*

**Job 8:1-3** — *Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, (2) How long will you speak these things? and how long shall the words of your mouth be like a strong wind? (3) Does God pervert judgment? or does the Almighty pervert justice?*

These men supposedly came to console Job, but each in his turn is accusing Job of doing \_\_\_\_\_ or God would not have acted against him.

**Job 9:2** — *I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just before God?*

Job acknowledges that no one can be considered \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_. However any knowledge of a particular sin of heart or action escapes Job and he does not know why the calamity has befallen him.

**Job 11:1 (KJ2000)** *Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,*

**Job 11:5 (KJ2000)** *But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against you;*

Zophar, his other friend then joins in and then declares that God should \_\_\_\_\_ and open his lips \_\_\_\_\_ Job.

**Job 34:31** —*Surely it is fitting to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more:*

This is a comment of Elihu, a fourth person who has joined the conversation with Job and his friends. He tells all assembled that the three friends have spoken falsely saying that Job must have sinned. The truth of the matter is that one who is \_\_\_\_\_ before God need only say that they have borne chastisement and that we should not offend any more by proclaiming our righteousness or stating or implying that an injustice has been done by God. Simply it means that all people who believe in God are his to use as he sees the need, for God sees beyond the temporal concerns and judgments of men.

**Job 38:1-3**—*Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, (2) Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? (3) Gird up now your loins like a man; for I will demand of you, and you answer me.*

This was an unexpected event for the Lord to answer Job. He asks Job “who is this,” that darkens counsel without \_\_\_\_\_. God then commands Job to \_\_\_\_\_ his loins like a man (gather your wits and muster your strength) for God will \_\_\_\_\_ an answer from Job.

**Job 42:3-6** — *Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered what I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. (4) Hear, I ask you, and I will speak: I will question you, and you declare unto me. (5) I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye sees you. (6) Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

God had personally confronted Job. Though there was no sin or iniquity that had initiated the calamities that befell Job, when Job contended that there was no reason for him to suffer as he had he had attempted to annul or put aside the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of God and accused God of wrong in justifying himself (PR: Job 40:8). In verse 5 Job declares that he had \_\_\_\_\_ of God, but now my \_\_\_\_\_ see you. He had come to a clearer and fuller understanding of God, his nature, his righteousness, his love, and his mercy.

Many point to the ending of Job (PR: Job 42:10-17) where it says that God restored the wealth and possessions of Job two fold and that Job lived a long and prosperous life after that as Job's reward. Job's true reward though was an intimacy and depth of knowledge of God that would never have occurred if Job had not faced the trials he had undergone.

*Psalm 42:1* — *As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after you, O God.*

*Ephesians 3:19* — *And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**Question: What would you be willing to endure to have a deep and intimate relationship with the Lord?**

### **God's People Facing Adversity:**

*Matthew 24:6-13* — *And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (7) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. (8) All these are the beginning of sorrows. (9) Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. (10) And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. (11) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (12) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold. (13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

These verses are the words of Jesus Christ where he warns of dark and difficult days that are ahead of believers. He says that there will be wars and rumors of wars, but not to be \_\_\_\_\_. This is not because of some delusional denial of events that are happening all around us, but rather because we trust in the Lord for our salvation. Christians should understand that death is just the doorway into the Lord's presence and a passage into eternity with the Lord. Jesus says all these things must come to pass, but the \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_. Verse 7 says that nations will \_\_\_\_\_ against other nations and kingdoms against kingdoms, and there will be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (diseases) and earthquakes in many places.



Then Jesus declares this is just the beginning of sorrows. He then tells those who follow him that they will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ by all for the sake of the name of Jesus. The Lord declares that there will be those who professed him, but will be \_\_\_\_\_ (disappointed and disillusioned by what they are called to suffer) and will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_ the ones that are truly surrendered to Jesus.

**Question: As a Christian are you prepared to face the hardest of times, the most dangerous times, lose everything you have and still worship, trust, and serve the Lord?**

*Numbers 14:1-4 — And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. (2) And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! (3) And why has the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? (4) And they said one to another, Let us choose a leader, and let us return into Egypt.*

Spies had been sent into the Promised Land and ten reported all the difficulties they would face in taking the land, giants and fortified cities among them and the people became so discouraged and afraid that the people wept. Verse two shows that the children of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ against Moses and Aaron. The Hebrew word that is translated as “murmured” means more fully to become obstinate and to abide or continue in a grudge. This was a grudge the people held against Moses and Aaron, because having no faith in the provision of God they feared they had come to the Promised Land to die in war, struggle, and deprivation. The people cried out in rage and proclaimed it would have been better to \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt under the miserable conditions of slavery than ever to have enjoyed a sense of freedom. They \_\_\_\_\_ against the authority of Moses and Aaron, men who were appointed and anointed of God. Verse 4 shows the beginning of this rebellion as they say lets us choose a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Egypt.

The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land was a long one, with many challenges that had been faced and overcome by God’s provision. The Lord had led the people himself with a pillar of smoke during the day and a pillar of fire during the

night. God had provided manna from heaven to feed the people. When they complained that there was no meat and started to dream of the fowl and delicacies that they had eaten in Egypt, God gave them fowl in such abundance that many became physically ill by over indulging. God had provided water, food, provision, and safety for them during the entire exodus from Egypt.

People do not like change. Human nature is to find a comfortable place and settle down to a comfortable routine. However, the people of God are called out of their comfort to accomplish his will for his glory.

*Numbers 14:10-13 — But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people despise me? and how long will it be before they believe me, with all the signs which I have shown among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of you a greater nation and mightier than they. And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for you brought up this people in your might from among them;)*

The rebellion against God (Moses and Aaron were God's chosen) rose to such a level that the \_\_\_\_\_ prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ them to death (a gruesome and painful death). They were ready to go to any extreme to go back to what they had known. Truth be told with the way the Israelites left Egypt and the death of an Egyptian Army during that escape the chances that they would be welcomed back peacefully were virtually non-existent.

God intervenes by having his \_\_\_\_\_ appear in the \_\_\_\_\_ of meeting, something that was \_\_\_\_\_ by all the children of Israel. God then proposes to start all over and make a nation using Moses as the foundation. Moses then intercedes for the people, not for their welfare, but for the glory and honor of God. Moses declares the \_\_\_\_\_ will hear it because God used his might to accomplish the liberation of the people and it would dishonor the name of God. A people (church, group, even nation) can have the most anointed leader that God chooses for them and intervene for their welfare and provision it will not matter if they will not accept what God is seeking to accomplish. **Those who rebel are doomed to wander in the wilderness until they wither away spiritually.**