

Attitude: How Patient was Job?

Throughout Job's ordeal, he maintained before his friends that he was innocent, that he had not committed any dreadful sin that would have caused God to send calamities on him. But he also did not understand why God had allowed all this to happen. We have the advantage of knowing a conversation between God and Satan.

Although Job was correct in that he was innocent of any sin which brought calamities on him, as we read his speeches he became more and more "demanding" of God, that God somehow *owed* him an explanation! We sometimes say Job was "patient" – do we really read about a "patient" man? Hmm...

The idea of Job's patience comes from the King James Version's in James 5:11, which used an older definition of patience. Translations using modern English have "endurance," "steadfastness," or "perseverance." "Think of how we regard as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job's endurance and you have seen the Lord's purpose, that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy" (James 5:11 NET).

A modern definition of the word 'patient' is "able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious" (Oxford Dictionary of English). Job doesn't quite meet this definition of patience. He did endure suffering and was steadfast in not giving up on God, even as his wife urged him to do so at the beginning of his ordeal: "Are you still holding firmly to your integrity? Curse God, and die!" (Job 2:9)

Job was confident in God. He was confident that if he could only present his case to God, God would see he was innocent and take away his suffering – or at least let him die in peace. "If only I had someone to hear me! Here is my signature – let the Almighty answer me! If only I had an indictment that my accuser had written. Surely I would wear it proudly on my shoulder, I would bind it on me like a crown; I would give him an accounting of my steps; like a prince I would approach him" (Job 31:35-37).

And God did speak to Job! Can you imagine it? God asked question after question in chapters 38 and 39, then Job realized how little he really knew in comparison to God. Do we? His reply, "Indeed, I am completely unworthy – how could I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth to silence myself. I have spoken once, but I cannot answer; twice, but I will say no more" (Job 40:4-5). If nothing else, Job learned *not* to question the wisdom of God!

At the end of the book, after some further questions from God, Job acknowledged, "I have declared without understanding things too wonderful for me to know" (Job 42:3). It is interesting that God venerates Job in front of his friends – his friends had misrepresented God, but Job had spoken truly about God (42:7-8). This is a lesson for us!

If we, as Christians, only had the confident attitude that Job had. If only we lived as faithful and pure lives as Job. When accused of some sin, even when we knew were innocent and still faithful to God. If only we would remain faithful despite what we have to "endure" in life.

Please realize this: Satan is still active today. Like a roaring lion, he is on the prowl, looking for someone to devour (see 1 Peter 5:6-9). The devil wasn't able to devour Job. Pray that we can all remain as steadfast, resisting the devil and retaining a confident attitude in God.

*How rare it is to
find a person
quiet enough to
hear God speak...
Attitude*

Bday/Anniv Lunch: ...when we can!

Bible Study: Consider your study of God's Word
(2 Timothy 2:15) Make time to learn some
Scripture that may apply to your life today...

NMCCH: collecting aluminum foil and kitchen
trash bags (pick up is later...)

— THANK YOU for reading!