

- ***Read James 5:7-11*** The inspired writer James writes this letter to Israel scattered abroad in hopes of encouraging them to remain faithful and strong in the face of many trials. In this passage towards the end of the letter, James continues his admonitions for patience and strength by reminding the letter's recipients of the endurance and faith of the Patriarch Job. Surely the trials that Job endured were well known to the Jews and this encouragement truly resinated with them. I would like for us to consider Job's faith in the face of struggles and be encouraged just the same.
- If you will, let's turn together to the book of the story of **Job**. For those who might be unfamiliar, I'd like to give a brief summary of the first couple chapters of the book.
 - **Chapter 1:**
 - Job is mentioned as a righteous man from the Land of Uz. **(v.1)**
 - God has blessed Job with a large family of 7 sons and 3 daughters. **(v.2)**
 - Job's physical possessions are also extremely numerous. **(v.3)**
 - Job was a godly man who strove to lead his household in a way of godliness. **(vv.4,5)**
 - God recognized Job's righteousness and even bragged on Job to Satan during a meeting of spiritual beings. **(vv.6-8)**
 - Satan rejects Job's faith as genuine & accuses Job of being faithful just because of God's protections. He challenges God on Job's faith & God allows for Satan to attack anything of his but his person. **(vv.9-12)**
 - Everything that Job has is decimated in different ways and Job is left in agony. However, even in all of this pain Job does not sin, but instead he worships and glorifies God. **(vv.13-22)**
 - **Chapter 2:**
 - Next, we again find the spiritual beings gathering in the presence of God. The Lord, again, brags on the faithfulness of Job, and this time Satan calls out Job as only being faithful as long as his person isn't touched. God allows Satan to touch Job, and he inflicts Job with boils. **(vv.1-7)**
 - Job is miserable in his current condition, and his wife implores him to just give up and die. **(vv.8,9)**
 - Job reprimands his wife for her doubt, & he was able to get through this trial without ever sinning with his lips. **(v.9)**
 - We close our the chapter with 3 of Job's friends coming to comfort him. They recognize his intense pain and they simply spend time with him in morning without saying a word. **(v.10-13)**
- The rest of **Job's Book** is summed up by Job trying to come to grips with his awful trials by asking God "Why?" at least 16 times. His friends end up being more troublesome than helpful, and Job truly struggles with why these things have happened to him. He struggles and fights doubt in God, but Jehovah appears as a whirlwind and answers Job's questions and doubts, and Job finally regains his full faith and confidence in the Lord in **Chapter 42**. Job is then blessed even beyond what he originally had.
- But back to the first couple of chapters in the book. There is one thing that continually stands out to me when it comes to job and his faith. That thing that stands out to me is the fact that Job's faith was evident to those who knew him best, and I think there are some great lessons that we can learn from that.

Job's faith was evident to those who knew him best.

I. God knew of Job's blamelessness, uprightness, fear of God, and refusal to do evil.

- A. Job was a man who had been blessed so immensely with earthly wealth and possessions. However, unlike many others, he did not allow these possessions to get to his head.
1. The fact that Job possesses so many sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys seems to indicate that he was very much a powerful business man. **(1:3)**
 2. More than likely, Job was involved in the travel, wool, and meat industries.
 3. How easy is it for the wealthy to put their trust in their riches instead of God? How easy is it for the wealthy to be shady in their dealings because of their hunger for more wealth? How easy is it for the wealthy to have their hearts darkened with selfish desires for more and more?
 4. These are real temptations that face the wealthy, but Job is the exception and he remained righteous before Almighty God of heaven and used his blessings from God well.
 5. Job's faith was evident to God, and God was well aware to the point that he bragged on Job to those other spiritual beings.
- B. Does God know of our faith based upon how we use the blessings He has given us?
1. We know that every good thing we have is a result of God's good blessings and grace upon us. **(James 1:17)**

2. Therefore, we ought to make sure that we using those blessings to glorify God.
3. We should use our blessings to help others. **(Eph. 4:28)**
4. Those who are well off are especially charged with the responsibility of helping the less fortunate to show that they are not full of greed for earthly riches. **(I Tim. 6:17-19)**
5. Job's mindset seems to be right in line with the admonition of the Hebrew Writer that he was free from the love of money. **(Heb. 13:5)**
6. We ought to strive to have the same mindset and have our faith evident to God through our use of His wonderful and numerous blessings.

II. Satan knew of Job's perseverance in the face of trials.

- A. Satan twice attacked the faith of Job, but each time Job stood strong and did not sin.
 1. Satan initially questions Jobs faith and attempts to hurt him by taking away his earthly possessions & attacking his children. This type of trial could cause the faith of just about anyone to crumble. **(1:9-19)**
 2. The response of Job was far from what Satan expected, though. While Job was crushed and while he did mourn, he also worshipped God and gave glory to His Awesome Name without sinning. **(1:20-22)**
 3. Satan's second attempt upon Job struck his person with horrible boils. Job suffered horribly from the boils and could only sit in the ashes and scrape himself with shards of pottery. **(2:4-8)**
 4. Even with his wife pushing him to curse God and end his life, Job still refused to sin with his lips. **(2:9,10)**
 5. Satan became well aware of the resiliency of Job's faith in the face of unspeakable tragedies.
- B. Does Satan know the strength of our faith based upon how we react in the face of major trials?
 1. We know that Satan is constantly looking to for ways to destroys us through trials & temptations **(I Peter 5:8,9)**
 2. How do we respond to such trials and temptations? Satan comes to know our faith by our reactions. Either we will be shown to be weak in faith, or we will be shown to be strong in our faith.
 3. Satan can come to know that our faith is as Job's being strong by us standing up against Satan and his many schemes. We must rely on God and His strength in order for us to overcome Satan. **(Eph. 6:10-18)**
 4. Our faith will be evident by our standing in the Lord when we face the trials of Satan.

III. Job's wife knew of Job's integrity.

- A. The final individual who knew of Job's great faith was his wife. She knew that he was a great man of awesome integrity.
 1. As Job is suffering from his nasty boils, his wife begs him to denounce his integrity and end it all. **(2:9)**
 2. Notice that Job's wife is totally away of his awesome integrity in God. How could it be that she was so aware of his faith?
 3. Firstly, the text seems to indicate that Job was a monogamist as opposed to a polygamist which was common to the time. Job was committed to God's original design for marriage. **(Gen. 2:21-25)**
 4. Job's faith was also exemplified in his service towards his children. Job was willing to do whatever it took to make sure that the sins of his children would be covered by the appropriate sacrifice. Job, as the patriarch of his family, would make sacrifices for his children after their gatherings. **(1:5)**
 5. Job's wife was well aware of his commitment to God based upon his respect for God's laws and his dedication to the spiritual well being of his children.
- B. Do our spouses, family, & parents know of our faith based upon our respect for God's laws and our love for the souls of our families?
 1. Are we respectful of God's marriage laws and His expectations for our spouses? **(Eph. 5:22-33)**
 2. Are we raising our children in the ways of the Lord? **(Eph. 6:4)**
 3. Do our parents recognize our spiritual progress by the respect we show them? **(Eph. 6:1-3)**
 4. If we are not doing these things then our spouses, our children, and our parents will take notice, and they will see our faith as being weak.
 5. But if we are respecting our parents, loving our spouses, and disciplining our children, then they will see our genuine faith and be bettered by it.

The faith of Job was evident to those around him because he allowed it to be the guiding force in his life. He allowed his faith to dictate how he would operate his business life, his response to trials, and how he behaved as a husband and father. Others knew well of his faith, and others should know our faith well, too. May God help us to build up our faith to the degree that all people know that we are Christians and that our lives are focused solely on glorifying God in all that we do.