

Transforming Daily
“...again...”
Job 2:1

Chapter two of Job literally begins where chapter one left off. If it wasn't bad enough for Job to have experienced the loss of everything but his life, now his health was being attacked by the enemy. The word “again” in the beginning of chapter two is strategically placed to inform the reader that Job's sorrows weren't yet over. Yes, but Job repented. Job fell on his face before God in contrition, humiliation, and submission. Surely that expression of faith was enough to thwart any further adversity in his life? That is the problem with the wrong understanding of faith.

Faith isn't to be expressed toward God just in times of trouble for its attending adversity to be relieved. Faith is, and more often called upon, to be expressed by one as they journey through the trials and tribulations of this life. The Word of God is not to be pandered and perverted as a “get out of jail free” card. One maybe forgiven of sin, pardoned from the second death, and reconciled to God by grace through faith, but there are still consequences for both general and specific sin. The consequences of Adam's sin, man's sin nature, are still in Effect. When Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17:15, He specifically requested that they not be removed from this world, but while in this world, kept from the evil one.

The good news is that where sin abounds grace abounds even more. No one likes the lessons of adversity. No one likes the burn of the fiery darts of the evil one. No one likes their Christian character to be challenged by adverse trials, tribulation, and antichristian persecution. Nevertheless, it will come, and more often than not, it will come when, how, where and from whom one least expects it.

Paul warned, instructed, and encouraged the believers at Ephesus that the believer does not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against Satan and his demonic host. As such, the condition that Paul offers is for the believer to be fully armored for spiritual battle with a helmet of salvation, breast plate of righteousness, belt of truth, shield of faith (to quench the fiery darts of the devil), and feet shod with the gospel. He also includes a sword which is the Word of God (remember on the night that He was betrayed he told Peter that those who live by the sword die by the sword), and prayer before, during, and after being clad in the spiritual armor.

There isn't one prayer. There isn't one sermon. There isn't one song, and there is no mantra that keeps adversity from the believer. Where do you place your trust? Do you trust God's Word? Are you relying on the presence of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring you His peace that passes understanding? When finishing one set of adverse circumstances, do you wisely prepare yourself to face adversity again?