

Week 41  
283/82

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... one who fears God and shuns evil...”**  
*Job 1:8 (2:3)*

What a testimony before God from God on behalf of one of His servants! On the other hand, this kind of thinking is almost nonexistent today. Most Christians today see God as a pal or a genie, but not as the infinite God of the universe and Creator. His servants today want to treat Him like a buddy or a school chum, but to fear Him? Their query is, “What is there to fear?” or “Why should I fear a loving God?” Therein lies the crux of the matter. God’s love and Divine retribution (wrath, judgment, and righteousness) are not mutually exclusive, but mutually inclusive. The Bible clearly says that He disciplines those whom He loves. Just as importantly, the Bible says that the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord. Maybe that’s why there are so much erroneous doctrines, false teachers as well as an inundation of false cults and false religions.

What about you and me? We really can’t do much for those who choose to live in darkness and in a state of self-delusion except to give positive Godly influence and direction by God’s Word through the testimony of our lives. In order to do that though, we have to fear God and shun evil. Is that your discipline? The world has a way of crowding everything out and what isn’t crowded out lends to a distraction from the will of God, the ways of God, the work of God, and ultimately, the Word of God. If you read the book of Job in its entirety, you will find implied (and sometimes directly stated) that Job was a man of spiritual discipline, in season and out. So when a season of adversity hit him and his family he was able to respond with the knowledge of God. For contrast and comparison note the way his wife and three friends reacted to Job’s adverse conditions (the fourth friend responded differently, don’t have time or space to elaborate on why).

But before we judge Job’s wife and three friends too harshly, we should do a little introspection of our own lives. How would or have you reacted/responded to adversity in your own life? Many discipline their bodies for purposes of good health and for the ability to withstand physical stress and adversity. That physical adversity doesn’t always come when they expect it, so they want to be prepared to be able to endure it and even overcome it. The same applies to spiritual discipline. If one is not accustomed to daily prayer when there is no adversity, what makes him think that prayer is what he will first, or if at all, turn to? If Bible study isn’t a part of one’s daily regimen of spiritual conduct, what makes her think that it will be when she is under duress and pressed for time? If soul winning isn’t a priority in one’s life, what makes that person think that they are, or will be, a Godly and positive influence on the lives of others as one who fears God and shuns evil?