

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... in your power ...”**  
*Job 1:12*

This is one of the most difficult concepts for believers and non-believers alike to understand. Why would God allow Satan to have power over the circumstances related to Job? Of course the question is the result of misperspective. Man chooses sin not God. God offers love, grace, mercy and forgiveness, and even in light of this, man still chooses to sin. It is because of the presence of God that the full weight of the circumstances concerning Job, and the circumstances concerning everyone, are not felt (yet). That is why the book of Job is about Divine retribution. Job, just like the rest of us, deserves death, hell, and the grave. How Job reacts in this set of circumstances, and the set of circumstances to come, reflects Job's response to the work of God in his life. It is no different for anyone else.

I remember a story told by Mark Lowery the Christian singer and comedian. He tells the story of a ministry opportunity that he had that didn't quite turn out the way he wanted it to. As a student, and asked to come to minister at a church some ways away from where he lived, he went and performed. Afterwards, he thought he would receive a love offering. He thought wrong. The minister thanked him for coming, and sent him on his way without any form of remuneration. As he got into his car and started on the way home, he said that he began to tell God about his troubles (as if God didn't know). He told God that his car needed gas, he needed money, and that he was hungry. The story goes on about his conversation with God, he says, until the Spirit of God spoke to his heart (Mark said that God didn't speak to him audibly because he was a Baptist and couldn't handle it). The message that the Spirit confirmed in his heart was something like this, "If you don't receive anything else but salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ, it sure beats hell." From that encounter, Lowery wrote a rap song entitled, *It Sure Beats Hell*.

When sin entered the garden and flooded into the world through the personal choices of Adam and Eve, death, disease, destruction, etc., entered, and mankind's sin nature was born. So it isn't a matter of God allowing Satan to have power, as much as it is a matter of God just not restraining him from doing what man's sin nature, through personal choice, wills him to do. Notice in the text that when Satan tells God to touch Job's life to prove Job's unfaithfulness, God is not the one who touches Job's life, He just pauses a portion of His restraint of Satan over Job.

To be sure, this is heavy theology. However, the question to ponder concerns our willingness to get and remain faithful to the will of God. Irrespective of the circumstances in which we find ourselves, can we shine forth as beacons of hope with the message of the gospel? Keep in mind, as it was with Job, those circumstances may include God's momentary pause of restraint of Satan over our lives, for which time we are placed in his power.