

Daily Devotion For January 16, 2021

11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." **12** The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Job 1:11-12

Yesterday as I was out for a morning walk, I was passing by the Coast Guard station. Along the bike path, "Coast Guardsman" were running and being tested and timed.

Last year as we studied the book of Job we were reminded of a godly man who was being tested and tried. The book of Job deals with a subject none of us wants to think about: Why does God allow us to be tested and tried? As we think about the story of Job, it's important to remember that God already knows the end "from the beginning" (Isaiah 41:26).

God is sovereign and knows how everything will work out. If He allows the devil to interfere in our lives, He always provides limits. Satan and his demons only can attack, tempt, or harm us to the degree God allows. Remember my sermons, nothing touches our lives that has not first passed through the fingers of God.

But we need to understand that God may remove His protecting hand for a season. As a result, we may go through severe trials and tests, times of turmoil and uncertainty, or unpleasant and painful circumstances. Just like Job, we might wonder if God has forsaken us, if we've done something wrong, or if we're being punished unfairly.

Thought For Today: We must remember that though we may go through tests, God still is on the throne. The Bible tells us to "consider it all joy...when you encounter various trials." When our faith is tested, we gain endurance. If we persevere, we'll become more "complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). Today, are you going through difficult tests and trials? Do you feel stretched? Remember that God is looking at your heart. Job passed his test, and God brought him even greater blessings.

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray that the Lord will keep you faithful in every situation. Continue to praise for being a Sovereign God. Continue to pray this week's prayer fuel. Deo Volente.