

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Job 1:8-10 “Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a *hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?* You have *blessed* the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only *do not lay a hand on his person.*’”

Quote: When Saul, a prideful Pharisee of the Pharisees encountered Christ, he saw himself as the chief of sinners and a wretched man. He humbly bowed the knee!

Satan responded to God’s assessment of Job by describing the man as a “fair-weather follower” who would deny God if His protection and provision were withheld. In that sense, he paints Job as a legalist whose behavior is tied to benefits received. John Piper states that “The essence of legalism is when *faith is not the engine of obedience.*” When faith drives obedience, we strive to obey even when we do not understand “the what” and “the why” of trials that God brings into our lives. It is important for us to remember that Job’s emotional and physical circumstances had not changed throughout God’s interrogation. Midway through God’s humbling discourse with Job, we read, “Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: ‘Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.’ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ‘Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.’”¹ What was changing was Job’s self-righteous attitude! When God ceased His dialogue with Job, we read, “Then Job answered the LORD and said: ‘I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen please, and

let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. *Therefore* I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”² The very same ash heap in which he sought to repair his body was the setting in which he repented for rebuking his God. Job may never have known of the drama between God and Satan that led to his trials. What he did learn was that his knowledge of the Almighty was sorely lacking. The mighty grandeur of God’s Person silenced Job and he embraced God’s providence.

What a source of comfort it is to know that God protects and provides for His children as a compassionate and capable Father. *He was in complete control throughout Job’s trial.* In the face of seemingly unbearable loss and pain, Satan’s temptation for Job to *rebel* remained God’s test to *reveal* and further *refine* Job’s character.

A God-Centered View of Life

It is important to remember that God *allowed* Satan to afflict and to tempt Job. His protective hedge did not break down. He put limits on what Satan could do to Job. The Bible tells us that when Job prayed for friends who were a nagging part of his trial that the LORD restored his losses abundantly. Other friends and relatives who had likewise misjudged Job and scorned him “came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him.” When difficulties come, take heart that God is the Master of His universe! Rest in His *sovereign control* and rejoice in *His sustaining compassion.* View the emotional and physical struggles that are part of this fleeting life against the backdrop of the eternal blessings that await us.³ We must never forget that “a Christian is not someone who at one point in time made a *profession of faith* in Christ, but he is a person who *demonstrates* true faith by an on-going love *for God* that cannot be damaged, much less destroyed, by troubles and afflictions, no matter how severe or long-lasting.”⁴ May God help us to bow the knee to “severe mercies” that He may bring into our lives for His glory and our good.⁵

¹ Job 40:1-4 ² Job 42:1-6 ³ II Cor.4:16-18 ⁴ MacArthur ⁵ Rom.8:28