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# "When things don't go your way."

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*The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (Proverbs 16:9 NASB)*

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## Part II of II

This is part II of "When things don't go your way." Let me recap the first message as a review for those that were absent last time and to those that were present, will be a quick review.

What do you do? Where do you turn, when things don't quite go your way? When you find yourself facing failure? When you find yourself facing what looks like a reality that something you have wanted so bad you could taste it, isn't going to happen? What do you do? Do you turn to God or do you become bitter because it didn't happen as you expected? Unless you have God in your life, you will probably turn bitter.

Do it my way God says, not your way! Learning to trust God, learning to walk with God means that we keep working on a relationship with God regardless of what happens in life, no matter how small or large it may be.

If you live long enough, you will experience heartache, disappointment, and sheer helplessness. The Lord is our most precious resource in those hours of trauma.

Have you ever had a time in your life when things just didn't go your way? You prayed, you hoped, you planned for success, but somehow it just didn't work out. No matter how well you may be sailing along, there will come a time when things won't go our way. How you handle things that don't turn out the way you want them to will determine how well you know your creator God. You may let bitterness set in or you turn your back on your faith in Jesus or you leave the church, all because things didn't work out the way you wanted them to.

But let me remind you that the Bible is what it is and has been since the beginning of creation and it cannot be changed in any way. It doesn't matter what we think it says,

it's what God says it says. We are to believe in God's word by faith. It will all end up as God willed it;

We also discussed the Four P's.

### ~The four P's~

I have a few tips for you today, four to be exact, that we can remember, "When things don't go your way." Remember God has a purpose, a plan, a provision and a presence. In short, He has the perfect plan for each of us and He never fails and He never makes a mistake.

### ~Purpose~

1. - When things don't go your way - Remember God has a purpose for you and your life. What is that purpose, I don't know; only you and God know. That is where prayer, fasting and reading the Word come in. We all have to communicate with God to know which way to go and what path to take that will lead to eternity. Some think that our goal or purpose in life is to be happy, no matter what. Remember that song that goes over and over again, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." But God's goal for us is not worldly happiness or success.

Everything is designed for secular happiness. But God's ultimate goal for us is to conform us to the image of Christ. Paul is speaking again here in Romans; *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* (Romans 8:29 KJV) God's purpose is to conform us to the image of His Son, in the likeness of His Son. When your goals are frustrated, look to God's higher purpose in your life.

### ~Plan~

2. - When things don't go your way - Remember God has a plan for you. God's plan for our life is to make us like Christ; after all we were created in the image of Christ. We can never be Christ, but we can look to Him as our Savior and mentor for all examples in life. Now the second verse in this set of verses in Romans; *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He*

*justified, He also glorified.* (Romans 8:30 NASB) The problem is that we have our own plan and sometimes that plan doesn't match up with God's plan.

### ~Provision~

3. - When things don't go your way - Another thing to remember is God's provision.

God will provide all the resources you need to endure the struggle and suffering you may face. After all Paul says in Philippians; *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:19 NASB) I'm reminded, the verse does not say all our wants; that is another subject. After all, He created us. Romans 8:32 says; *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* (Rom 8:32 KJV)

Why would God bring us into this world and not supply our needs. After all God is our Father and what do Father's do? They take care of their children. Just think, if He is for us, who can be against us? *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* (Romans 8:31 NASB) With God on our side, no one, yes, no one, can be against us. Jesus Christ over powers anyone or anything else. We just need to put our trust and faith in Him. Ephesians 3:20 says; *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,* (Ephesians 3:20 NASB) Remember God will supply our needs, He is for us, not against us and He works in us to do abundant works. God has the necessary provisions for us to overcome.

### ~Presence~

4. - When things don't go your way - The fourth thing to remember is God's presence.



When we have hardships or persecution comes our way and things are not going our way, just remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God. As we pick up the verses in Romans; *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor*

*angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* (Romans 8:38 NASB) *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to*

*separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39 NASB) God is here for us all the time, 24/7, you never get a busy signal. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. We ourselves are the only one that can separate us from God's Love. When you are going through that trial or tribulation, just remember you always count on God's presence. Believe it.*

*There is joy in the presence of the Lord. Check out Psalms 16:11; *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Psalms 16:11 KJV)**

That takes care of the recap, now for the message from the book of Job.

**~Job~**

When I think of "when things don't go your way," the name that immediately comes to mind is the Book of Job. But first, a few comments about the book of Job it's probably the oldest book in the Bible and probably provides more insight of the age-long conflict between God and Satan than any other book. The book of Job is not just a story, he was a real man in a real time; they say it all happened sometime around the time of Abraham. The book of James talks about the patience of Job and the mercy of God. One thing I haven't been able to determine is how long in actual time was Job in his situation, was it days, months or even years? There are a number of verses in Job that talks about years. Enough to convince me that Job was under this trial of suffering for years. Another amazing thing about Job is that he kept the faith of God under these conditions for a long period of time, which makes the story a more powerful testimony to God.

I spoke with another brother when he asked what book I was reading. I told him I was into the book of Job. He told me that Job's suffering by the hand of Satan went on for years. He then told me that he was in the second chapter of Job, while reading the Bible through, when his wife left him and that he read only Job for one year.

We may never know how long his suffering lasted, but the story is the important part. It shows us how the hand of God worked in Job's life and as we look at it, it sets

an example for us. I would like to discuss with you this story of Job. It is somewhat of a long story, the book has 42 chapters. Actually we will cover the beginning of the book and the end of story with a few comments and verses in the middle. Let us see how Job reacted in times of trials and tribulations. And let us see what we may learn from this great man of God. Just by reading the verses below pretty well tells the story. Let's look now at the first chapter of Job.

### Job 1:1-22 MKJV

(1) *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. And that man was perfect and upright, and one who feared God and turned aside from evil.*



- As Moses, Noah and others in the Old Testament Job was perfect, upright, feared God and turned aside from evil. A good example for us.

(2) *And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters.*

(3) *And his possessions were seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household, so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.*

- Notice that Job had seven sons and three daughters, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 she donkeys. Job was a rich man with all his material possessions, and yet he was a man of God. He didn't let his materialism deflect from his God. In material wealth, we compare him to Bill Gates today.

(4) *And his sons went and feasted in the house of each one on his day. And they sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.*



(5) *And when they had gone around the day of feasting, Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. So Job did*

*always.*

-Job was the family priest, and each morning he offered burnt offerings for his sons. This shows his concern for his family. He looked out for others, not always himself. It also shows us the heart of this man for God and his fellowman.

- (6) *And a day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah. And Satan also came among them.*
- (7) *And Jehovah said to Satan, From where do you come? Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*
- (8) *And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you set your heart against My servant Job, because there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil?*

- Satan may have had his eye on Job, wondering where his weakest point was. You also can notice here that Jehovah brought up the subject of Job.

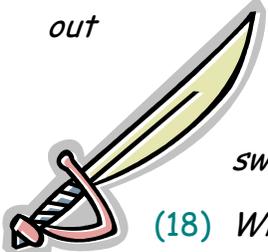
- (9) *And Satan answered Jehovah and said, Does Job fear God for nothing?*
- (10) *Have You not made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land.*
- (11) *But put forth Your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.*
- (12) *And Jehovah said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power. Only do not lay your hand upon him. And Satan went forth from the presence of Jehovah.*

- Jehovah gave Satan the free rein to do whatever he wanted to Job and his property, but he could not harm Job. The next few verses will tell us what Satan did to Job.

- (13) *And a day came when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house.*
- (14) *And there came a messenger to Job and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them.*

(15) *And the Sabians fell on and took them away. Yea, they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.*

(16) *While he was still speaking, there also came another and said, The fire of God has fallen from the heavens and has burned up the sheep and the servants, and destroyed them. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.*

(17) *While he was still speaking, there also came another and said, The Chaldeans made out*  *three bands and swooped down upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and have killed the servants with the edge of the sword. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.*

(18) *While he was still speaking, there also came another and said, Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house.*

(19) *And, behold, a great wind came from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.*

- All of Job's material wealth was gone as well as all ten children. Put yourself in Job's shoes, what would you do, how would you react to God? Think of the worst thing that has ever happened to you!

(20) *And Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshiped.*

- Only after he heard the news that all his children had been killed did he bow down and worship God.

(21) *And he said, I came naked out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. Jehovah gave, and Jehovah has taken away. Blessed be the name of Jehovah.*

- Unlike most of us, Job realized that Jehovah owned it all. Since Jehovah gives, He can take away as he sees fit for the occasion. We are only tenants.

(22) *In all this Job did not sin, nor charge God foolishly.*

- This verse 22 lets us know Job's attitude about Jehovah and the relationship he had to Him. Job did not turn bitter, he turned to God. Notice that Job did not sin and did not put the blame on Jehovah.

### Job 2:7-13 MKJV

(7) *And Satan went forth from the presence of Jehovah and struck Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.*

(8) *And he took a broken piece of pottery to scrape himself with. And he sat down among the ashes.*

(9) *And his wife said to him, Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!*

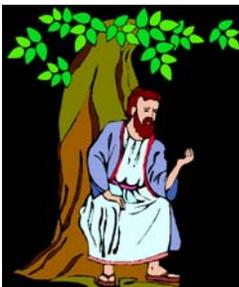
(10) *But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish ones speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

(11) *And Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, and they each one came from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had met together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.*

(12) *And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and did not know him, they lifted up their voice and wept. And each one tore his robe, and they sprinkled dust upon their heads toward Heaven.*

(13) *And they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights. And no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.*

### ~Job Vindicated~



- Job knew that someday he would be vindicated, and he reflects that in a few verses toward the middle of the book, they are:

(18) *Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.* Job 13:18 KJV

And then there are these verses.

- (25) *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall rise on the earth at the last;*  
 (26) *and even after they corrupt my skin, yet this: in my flesh I shall see God,*  
 (27) *whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not a stranger's; though my heart be exhausted in my bosom. Job 19:25-27 MKJV*

The part of the book other than the beginning and ending is a lot of talk with his friends and conversations with God. As a matter of fact, of the 42 chapters in the book of Job, chapters 38-41 are conversations with God.

### ~End of Story~

Next, the end of story. Remember the verse in Romans 8:28; "*all things work together for good to those who love Jehovah and who are called according to His purpose.*" We have now seen this verse work out in the life of Job.

### Job 42:1-6 MKJV

- (1) *And Job answered Jehovah and said,*  
 (2) *I know that You can do all, and not any purpose is withheld from You.*  
 (3) *Who is he who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have spoken what I did not understand; things too wonderful for me; yea, I did not know.*  
 (4) *Hear, I beseech You, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You will cause me to know.*  
 (5) *I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye has seen You.*  
 (6) *Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

### ~Job restored to prosperity~

- God restored to Job double his material wealth and replaced all 10 of his children. Job never cursed God or turned his back on God.

### Job 42:10-17 MKJV



(10) *And Jehovah turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Also Jehovah added to Job all that had been his, to double.*

(11) *And came to him all his brothers, and all his sisters, and all those who had known him before. And they ate bread with him in his house, and consoled*

*him and comforted him over all the evil that Jehovah had brought on him. Each one also gave him a piece of money, and each one a ring of gold.*

*(12) And Jehovah blessed the latter days of Job more than the beginning. For he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.*

*(13) He also had seven sons and three daughters.*

- God replaced in numbers the sons and daughters because he would be reunited with the ones are deceased.

*(14) And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Keziah; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch.*



*(15) And in all the land there were not found women as beautiful as the daughters of Job. And their father gave them inheritance among their brothers.*

- Not only did the sons get an inheritance, but the three daughters got there's.

*(16) After this Job lived a hundred and forty years, and he saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations.*

*(17) And Job died, being old and full of days.*

- Job died with a fullness of time with 140 years, twice the promise of 70, as recorded in Psalms\_90:10; *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by strength they are fourscore years, yet their pride is labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.* He was able to see four generations of family.

As recorded, we do not know who wrote the book of Job. But, it was divinely revealed to the writer. The story of Job is certainly a book of faith. And I for one; am thankful that the story has not been lost in history.

"We spoke of Robert Mueller, a man known for building orphanages by faith in the 1800s. He raised millions of dollars for his orphanages, yet died with little in his bank account. Mueller was converted in November of 1825, but came to a full surrender of the heart four years later, in July 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, and the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God.

The author went on to say; many will never get to the place where George Mueller was in his spiritual life, because we are unwilling to release control of these areas of which he speaks. If we do release control, it usually is due to a process that God brings us through. Paul got knocked off a horse and was spoken to personally before he was willing to listen and follow completely. Peter had to live with Jesus three years and he still denied Him. It was only later, after he denied Jesus and realized how weak he was in his own faith, that he became fully committed to the Savior.

What will it take for you to fully surrender? You will know that you have given full surrender when power, money, and position no longer have meaning in your life. The Apostle Paul said, "he came to a place where his life was the life of Christ only." It is a sacrificial life, but it is also a life of freedom, purpose, and meaning. Let God take full control and see His life lived fully through you."

Amen



*I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. Credits will sometimes be in the above writing. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.*

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Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ