



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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A SERVANT LIKE JOB

There are many titans of faith throughout the scriptures. When we read the Bible we look at men like Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, Paul, Peter, and of course Christ, as examples of God's followers. Of some of these men and women there have been some pretty amazing statements made. It was said of Abraham that he was the friend of God (James 2:23). Moses was called the most meek man on the earth (Numbers 12:3). David was called a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). However, there is one man who has had an equally amazing statement made of him. This man is Job. In Job 1:8 we read, "and 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, who fears God and turns away from evil?'" How incredible is that? God told Satan that there was no other person on earth quite like Job. That is a pretty great compliment! Why would God say something like that? What did Job do to receive such high esteem from the Lord?

Well, God told Satan why Job was different. First, He said that Job was blameless and upright. That means that there was no wrong of which anyone could accuse him. He lived a life that was blameless before man and God. In fact, that is what we all should be doing. Paul, when he was before the Sanhedrin council said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day" (Acts 23:1). Though we know that Paul was not always right in his attempt to serve God (1 Timothy 1:12-17) he did his best to have a clear conscience. We too must, to the best of our ability, live in a way where our conscience is clear before God. The word upright means righteous. Job did not simply live by his own conscience but he based his conscience on the will of

God. Since Job did this he was a righteous man in the eyes of the Lord. 1 John 3:7 states, "Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous."

God also said that Job was one who feared God and turned away from evil. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7)." Fearing God is one of the fundamental aspects of serving Him. One must have respect and reverence for Him. In fact, if you were to look at the word fear in that passage it means just that. Not only does it mean having a respect for Him it also means having a devotion to Him. Job was one who feared God. He respected and revered the Lord and was unwaveringly devoted to Him. This goes perfectly with turning away from evil. Notice Proverbs 8:13, "The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil

and perverted speech I hate." If one fears the Lord they will reject and turn from evil.

Do we want God to look at us the way He did Job? Let us walk blamelessly and upright. Let us fear Him and turn from evil! Rom 8:35-39 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Even as it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ASV

Renn Ferguson