



April 07, 2020

## **From Desperation to Abundance**

"In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing"... "Though he slay me, yet I will trust him"... "I had heard reports about you, but now my eyes have seen you." - **Job 1:22, 13:15, 42:5**

One of the finest examples of this journey is found in the life of Job. When we meet him, we find that he is a fine fellow who is doing quite well in his life. He has a respectable faith, he has a good reputation with both wealth and power. Job trusted God to be good to him if he lived a proper and upright life. Then all hell breaks loose, and the limited nature of his respectable faith became obvious. Now Job never lost his faith in the midst of the great tragedies he encountered, even when others urged him to give up on God. While he never sinned, it soon becomes obvious that he did not have peace in his faith.

Not everyone handles setbacks like Job did. He digs in, he holds on, he clings tight, and says "I don't care what's going to happen, I am holding on to God." Desperate faith is all about trusting God when life begins to crumble around us. Often God allows us to reach the point of desperation so we can learn how to trust him. While it is a hard lesson, it's an absolutely essential one. When we're at the end of our rope, this is an opportunity to deepen our trust in God. Job said, "I repent." We might ask, what did he have to repent of if he didn't sin? Simply put, he stopped pressing his case with God. He stopped trying to get God to make everything right. Having seen God, he let go of his desperation. He saw that whatever needs to be taken care of would be, and in his new vision of God he was able to find rest in him and his abundance. One of the fundamental changes that takes place as we move from the faith of desperation to the faith of abundance is that we take our minds off ourselves and place them on God.

Moving into this faith of abundance is receiving God as the companion of our soul. When walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we don't fear, why? Because the Lord is with me. In the midst of the hard times, we choose to believe that God is with us, He is supporting and helping us no matter the circumstances. We never have to fight any battle alone, for as we invoke the presence of God into all the circumstances of our life, we are opening ourselves up to seeing how God will meet us in those places.

***Practice:*** *It takes training for us to see the goodness of God as a pattern in our life. Each day write down three ways in which you have encountered God's abundant provision, his goodness in the midst of the mess and muddle of your life.*