

- Luke 8:15 (ESV) 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

- Job 1:1: There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

- Job 1:5 And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and **cursed God in their hearts.**” Thus Job did continually.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

- Job 1:8-12 (ESV) 8 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?”

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- Job 1:9-12 (ESV) 9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**” 12 And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- Satan's accusation is that Job is only faithful and serving God because it benefits him in this life. God protects him, blesses him, and gives to him.
- Satan's challenge is that if all those benefits go away, Job will not only stop fearing God, he will turn away from God and blame God for all that goes wrong.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- This is the essence of the problem with suffering and pain in this life, especially for those who are believers and followers of God.
- We want to think that as His followers, everything will always be good and we will always be blessed richly in this life.
 - But we also see the reality all around us, and often very personally.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- Was God punishing Job?
 - Clearly not.
 - What does it say about us that our thoughts turn to thinking God is punishing us if we don't get everything we want, or if life becomes difficult?
 - How shallow is our faith? (Just like Satan?)

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- Doesn't it seem that God is bragging on Job?
 - God is so convinced of his faith that he's the proof that Satan's accusation is untrue.
 - God has put his own reputation on the line with Job. He completely trusts in Job's faith!

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a **hedge** around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have **blessed** the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**

Job. 1:9-11

- Is God just “using” Job, though? Is he merely a pawn in a game between Jehovah and Satan?
- Will Job get any benefit from going through all this suffering?
 - Is God actually doing this for Job’s benefit too?
 - How will this help Job’s faith?

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and
naked shall I return. Jehovah gave, and
Jehovah has taken away; **blessed be the name
of Jehovah.**

Job. 1:21

- Job 1:20-22 (ESV) 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and
naked shall I return. Jehovah gave, and
Jehovah has taken away; **blessed be the name
of Jehovah.**

Job. 1:21

- This is the opposite of Satan's expectation!
- This is exactly what Jehovah expected!

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.

Job 2:3

But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.

Job 2:4

- Job 2:3-6 (ESV) 3 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? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." 4 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." 6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.

Job 2:3

But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.

Job 2:4

- Jehovah praises Job's continuing integrity.
- Satan, incredibly, argues that Job didn't suffer enough (!!!).

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Shall we receive good from God, and shall we
not receive evil?

In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:10

- Job 2:9-10 (ESV) 9 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? **Curse God and die.**” 10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Shall we receive good from God, and shall we
not receive evil?

In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:10

- Again Job doesn't react as Satan expects. Why?
- And Job reacts as Jehovah expects.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Shall we receive good from God, and shall we
not receive evil?

In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:10

- But...
 - It turns out it's not as simple as that in some ways.
 - As time passes, and nothing changes; learn that the test is not just in that moment.
- Job's friends come to comfort him; 7 days of silence
- Job speaks... hear his pain!

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

After this Job opened his mouth and **cursed the day of his birth.**

Job 3:1

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Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

After this Job opened his mouth and **cursed**
the day of his birth.

Job 3:1

Misery Bitter Long for death Hedged in

- Job 3:20-26 (ESV) 20 **“Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,** 21 **who long for death,** but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, 22 **who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?** 23 **Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

After this Job opened his mouth and **cursed**
the day of his birth.

Job 3:1

Misery Bitter Long for death Hedged in
Sighing Groanings Fear Dread

- 24 For my **sighing** comes instead of my bread, and my **groanings** are poured out like water. 25 For the thing that I **fear** comes upon me, and what I **dread** befalls me.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

After this Job opened his mouth and **cursed**
the day of his birth.

Job 3:1

Misery Bitter Long for death Hedged in

Sighing Groanings Fear Dread

Not at ease Nor quiet No rest

Trouble comes

- 26 I am **not at ease**, nor am I **quiet**; I have **no rest**, but **trouble comes.**”

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

For the **arrows of the Almighty are in me**; my spirit drinks their **poison**; the **terrors of God** are arrayed against me.

Job 6:4

- Job 6:4 (ESV) 4 For the **arrows of the Almighty are in me**; my spirit drinks their **poison**; the **terrors of God** are arrayed against me.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

For the **arrows of the Almighty** are in me; my spirit drinks their **poison**; the **terrors of God** are arrayed against me.

Job 6:4

“Oh that I might have my request, and that God would fulfill my hope, that it would please God to **crush** me, that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!

Job 6:8-9

- Job 6:8-13 (ESV) 8 “Oh that I might have my request, and that **God would fulfill my hope**, 9 that it would please **God to crush me**, that he would let loose his hand and **cut me off!** 10 This would be my comfort; I would even exult in pain unsparing, for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

For the **arrows of the Almighty are in me**; my spirit drinks their **poison**; the **terrors of God** are arrayed against me.

Job 6:4

“Oh that I might have my request, and that God would fulfill my hope, that it would please God to **crush** me, that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!

Job 6:8-9

And what is my end, that I should be patient?

Job 6:11

- 11 What is my strength, that I should wait? **And what is my end, that I should be patient?** 12 Is my strength the strength of stones, or is my flesh bronze? 13 Have I any help in me, when resource is driven from me?

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle
and come to their end without hope.

My eye will never again see good.

Job 7:6-7

- Job 7:6-10 (ESV) **My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle and come to their end without hope.** 7 “Remember that my life is a breath; **my eye will never again see good.** 8 The eye of him who sees me will behold me no more; while your eyes are on me, I shall be gone. 9 As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up; 10 he returns no more to his house, nor does his place know him anymore.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

- Job 13:13-28 (ESV) 13 “Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. 14 Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand?
15 Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

- yet I will argue my ways to his face.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

Let not
dread of You
terrify me.

Job. 13:21

- 20 Only grant me two things, then I will not hide myself from your face: 21 withdraw your hand far from me, and **let not dread of you terrify me.**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

Let not
dread of You
terrify me.

Job. 13:21

Why do You hide
Your face and count
me as Your enemy?

Job. 13:24

- 24 **Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

Let not
dread of You
terrify me.

Job. 13:21

Why do You hide
Your face and count
me as Your enemy?

Job. 13:24

frighten

Job. 13:25

- 25 Will you **frighten** a driven leaf and pursue dry chaff?

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

Let not
dread of You
terrify me.

Job. 13:21

Why do You hide
Your face and count
me as Your enemy?

Job. 13:24

frighten

Job. 13:25

You write bitter
things against me

Job. 13:25

- 26 For **you write bitter things against me** and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth. 27 You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you set a limit for the soles of my feet.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

Job. 13:15

Yet I will
argue my ways
to His face.

Job. 13:15

Let not
dread of You
terrify me.

Job. 13:21

Why do You hide
Your face and count
me as Your enemy?

Job. 13:24

frighten

Job. 13:25

You write bitter
things against me

Job. 13:25

wastes away

Job. 13:28

- 28 Man **wastes away** like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

But a man dies and is laid low; a man breathes
his last, and where is he?

Job 14:10

- Job 14:7-10 (ESV) 7 “For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. 8 Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, 9 yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. **10 But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he?**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

But a man dies and is laid low; a man breathes
his last, and where is he?

Job 14:10

If a man dies,
shall he live again?

Job 14:14

- Job 14:14 (ESV) 14 **If a man dies, shall he live again?** All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

But a man dies and is laid low; a man breathes
his last, and where is he?

Job 14:10

If a man dies,
shall he live again?

Job 14:14

So You destroy the
hope of a man.

Job 14:19

- Job 14:18-22 (ESV) 18 “But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; 19 the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; **so you destroy the hope of man.** 20 You prevail forever against him, and he passes; you change his countenance, and send him away. 21 His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not. 22 He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself.”

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the
graveyard is ready for me.

Job 17:1

- Job 17:1-2 (ESV) 1 **“My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me.**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the
graveyard is ready for me.

Job 17:1

Mockers

Job 17:2

provocation

Job 17:2

- 2 Surely there are **mockers** about me, and my eye dwells on their **provocation**.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the
graveyard is ready for me.

Job 17:1

Mockers

Job 17:2

provocation

Job 17:2

My days are past; my
plans are broken off,
the desires of my heart

Job 17:11

- Job 17:11-16 (ESV) 11 My **days are past; my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart.** 12 They make night into day: 'The light,' they say, 'is near to the darkness.'

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the
graveyard is ready for me.

Job 17:1

Mockers

Job 17:2

provocation

Job 17:2

My days are past; my
plans are broken off,
the desires of my heart

Job 17:11

If I hope for Sheol as my
house ... where is my hope?
Who will see my hope?

Job 17:13, 15

- 13 **If I hope for Sheol as my house**, if I make my bed in darkness, 14 if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,' 15 **where then is my hope? Who will see my hope?** 16 Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass,
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job 19:8

- Job 19:8-12 (ESV) 8 He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass,
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job 19:8

He has stripped
from me my glory
and taken the crown
from my head.

Job 19:9

- 9 He has **stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head.**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass,
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job 19:8

He has stripped
from me my glory
and taken the crown
from my head.

Job 19:9

My hope has
He pulled up
like a tree.

Job 19:10

- 10 **He breaks me down on every side**, and I am gone, and **my hope has he pulled up like a tree.**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass,
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job 19:8

He has stripped
from me my glory
and taken the crown
from my head.

Job 19:9

My hope has
He pulled up
like a tree.

Job 19:10

He has kindled His
wrath against me
and counts me as
His adversary.

Job 19:11

- 11 He has **kindled his wrath against me** and **counts me as his adversary**.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass,
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

Job 19:8

He has stripped
from me my glory
and taken the crown
from my head.

Job 19:9

My hope has
He pulled up
like a tree.

Job 19:10

He has kindled His
wrath against me
and counts me as
His adversary.

Job 19:11

troops ... siege ramp ... encamp around my tent

Job 19:12

- 12 His **troops** come on together; they have cast up their **siege ramp** against me and **encamp around my tent**.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last
He will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:25

- Job 19:25-27 (ESV) 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last
He will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:25

Yet in my flesh I shall see God

Job 19:26

- 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last
He will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:25

Yet in my flesh I shall see God

Job 19:26

My heart faints within me!

Job 19:27

- 27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

- Job 42:1-6 (ESV) 1 Then Job answered the Lord and said: 2 “I know that you can do all things, and that **no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

- 3 Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.'

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

now my eye sees You

Job 42:5

- 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

now my eye sees You

Job 42:5

- Job 42:8 (ESV) Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. **For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.**”

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

now my eye sees You

Job 42:5

- Job 42:10-17 (ESV) 10 **And Jehovah restored the fortunes of Job**, when he had prayed for his friends. And **Jehovah gave Job twice as much as he had before**.
11 Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

now my eye sees You

Job 42:5

- 12 **And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.** And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14 And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. 15 And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

I know that you can do all things, and that
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

now my eye sees You

Job 42:5

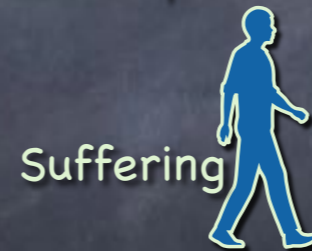
- 16 And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. 17 And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11



- James 5:10-11: As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.** You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11



- Job is given to us an example of a righteous man enduring great suffering.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11



The
PURPOSE
of the Lord

- Purpose (KJV: the **end** of the Lord)
 - (CWSB Dictionary) (II) Figuratively it means end, event, issue, result (Matt. 26:58; James 5:11, the issue or event which the Lord gave).
 - (MED) final dealing, developed issue, Jas. 5:11
 - (TDNT - Abridged) 1. To understand *télos* and *teléō* in the NT one must remember their dynamic character; they denote 'fulfilment' (cf. Lk. 22:37).

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11



The
PURPOSE
of the Lord

- The purpose of the Lord
 - Although Job didn't know at the time why he was suffering
 - And he struggled mightily to understand "Why?"
 - He resisted the false thoughts of His "friends" who did not speak right of God (42:8)

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11



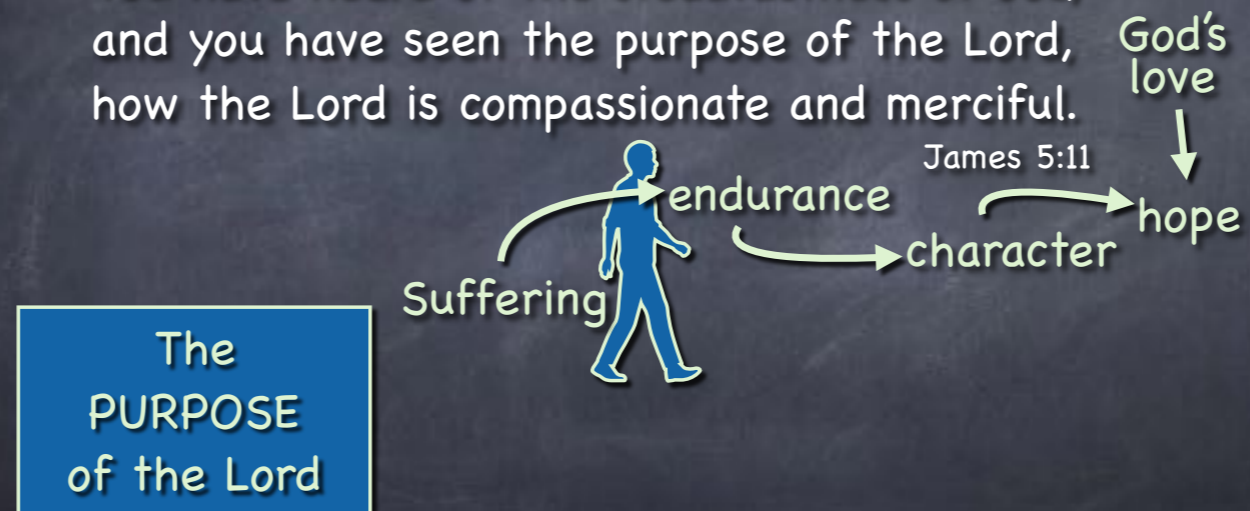
The
PURPOSE
of the Lord

- Some possible purposes... (What end did God have in mind?)
 - A lesson for Satan?
 - but that seems manipulative and cruel
 - did Satan really need "proof" of God's power, love, majesty?
 - It has to be more!

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.



- A lesson for Job?

- Suffering - endurance - character - hope - God's love!
- Romans 5:3-5 (ESV) 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

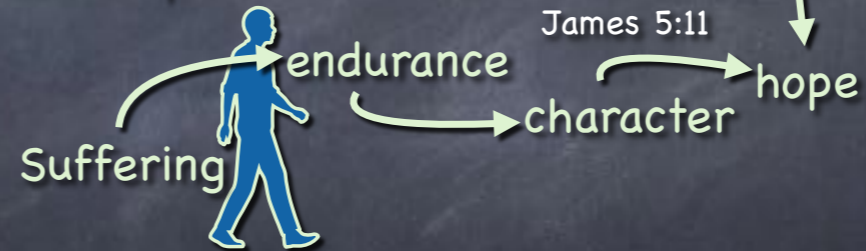
Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

God's
love

James 5:11



The
PURPOSE
of the Lord

- Job 42:5-6 (ESV) 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but **now my eye sees you**; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”
- Same lesson for us!!!

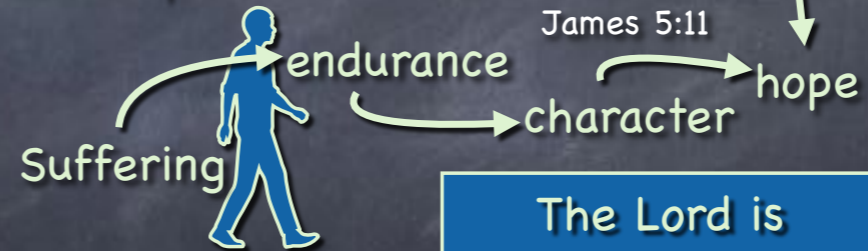
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The
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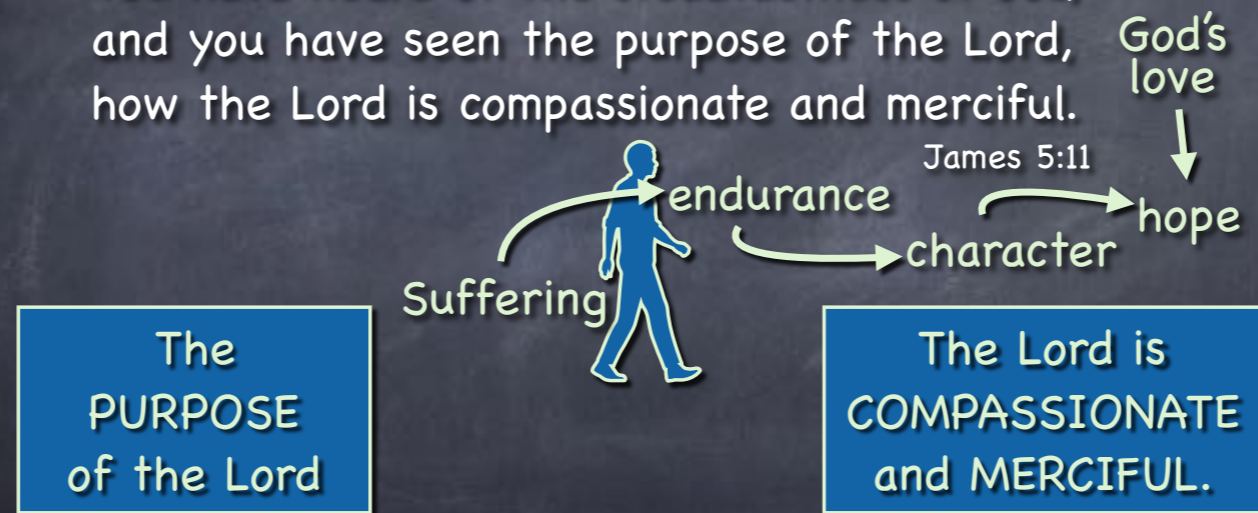
The Lord is
COMPASSIONATE
and MERCIFUL.

- This is often where we fail in understanding suffering.
- Our tendency is to feel forsaken, and that no good will ever happen (Just like Job)
 - Curse our birth.
 - Wish for death.

Job

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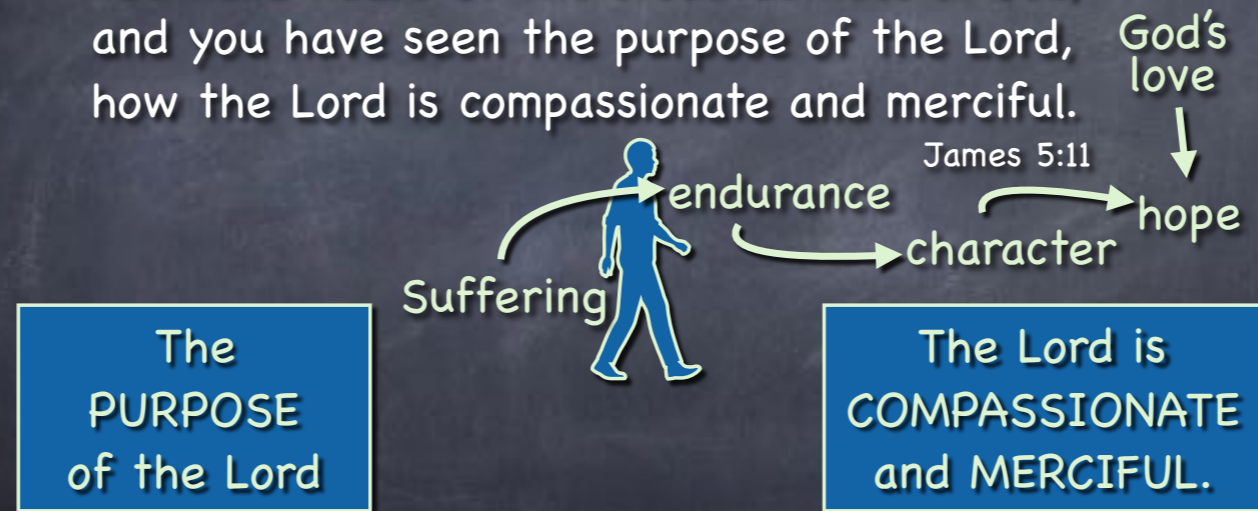


- Need someone to hear us....
 - His friends didn't really listen nor comfort.
 - His wife rejected him.
 - God won't answer.
 - Job 31:35 (ESV) 35 Oh, that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

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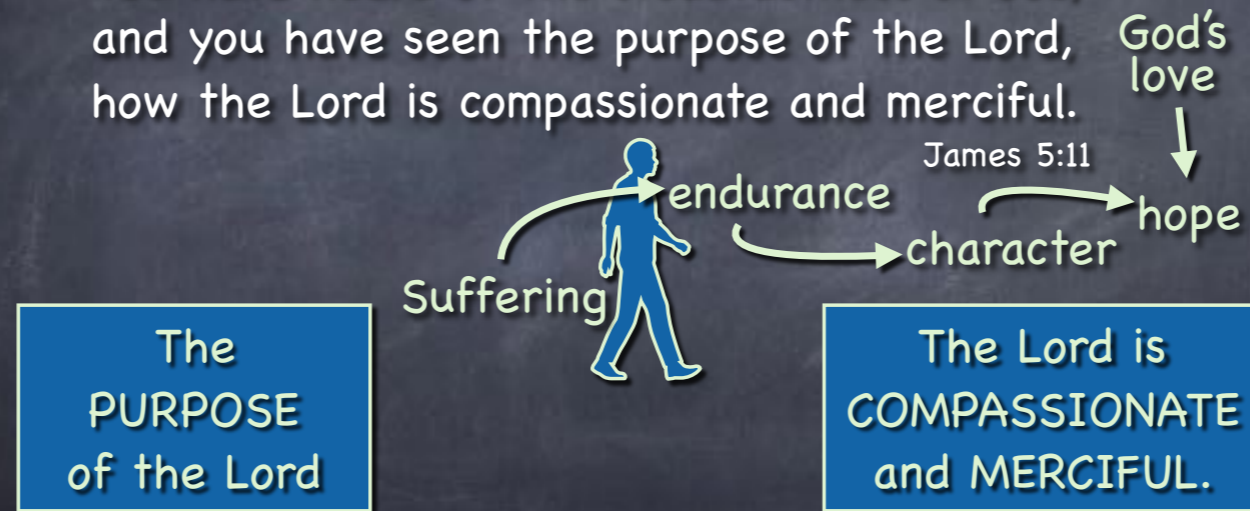


- In the midst of suffering, it's easy to forget God's love!
 - Job 42:8 And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly ... and the Lord accepted Job's prayer.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
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how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.



- 10 And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends.
- And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.
- 12 And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.

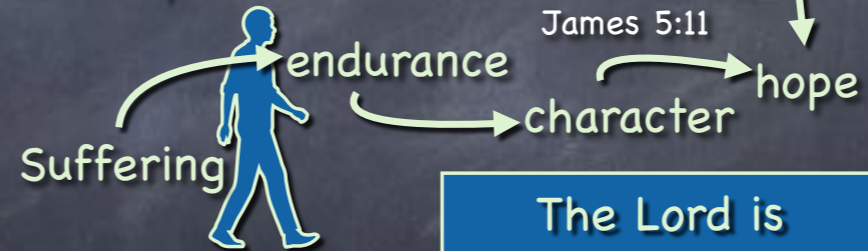
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The
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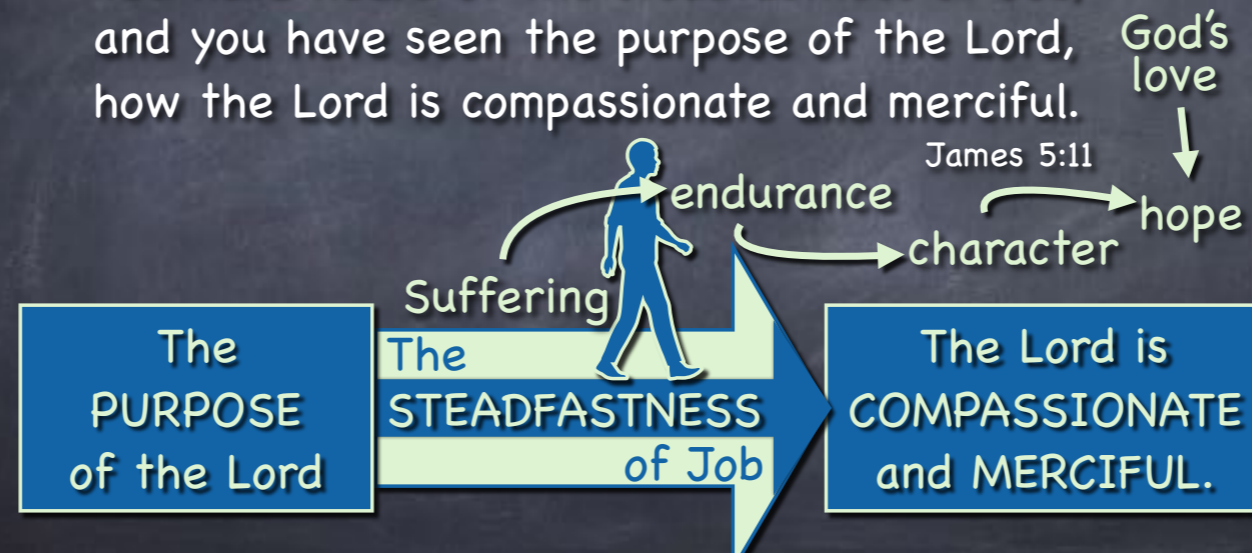
The Lord is
COMPASSIONATE
and MERCIFUL.

- 16 And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. 17 And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.



- Job's steadfastness

- Doesn't mean that we don't ask questions.
- Doesn't mean that we don't challenge God.
- Doesn't mean that we don't squirm, whine, bemoan.
- Doesn't mean that we don't stop thinking.
- Suffering is a struggle: physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually

Job

blameless — upright — fears God — turns away from evil

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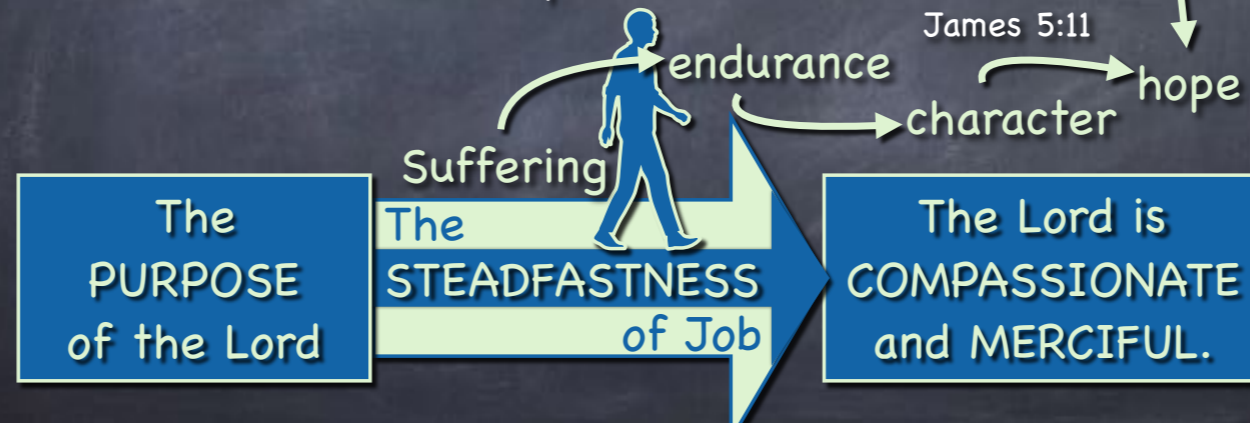
God's
love

James 5:11

endurance

character

hope

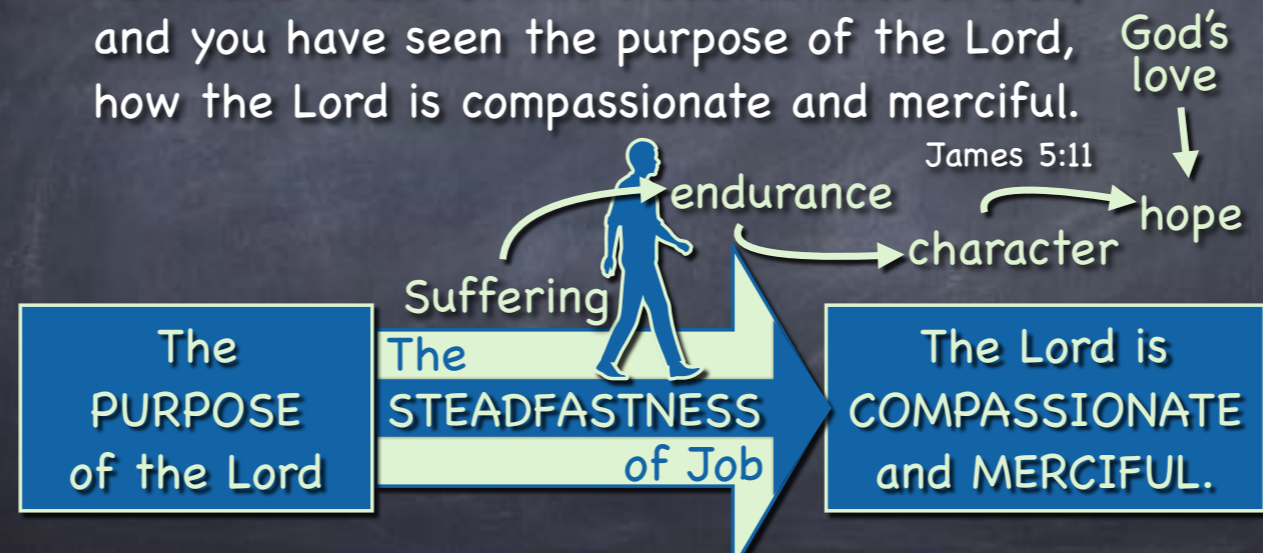


- Steadfastness
 - We keep our faith in God.
 - We keep drawing nearer to Him.

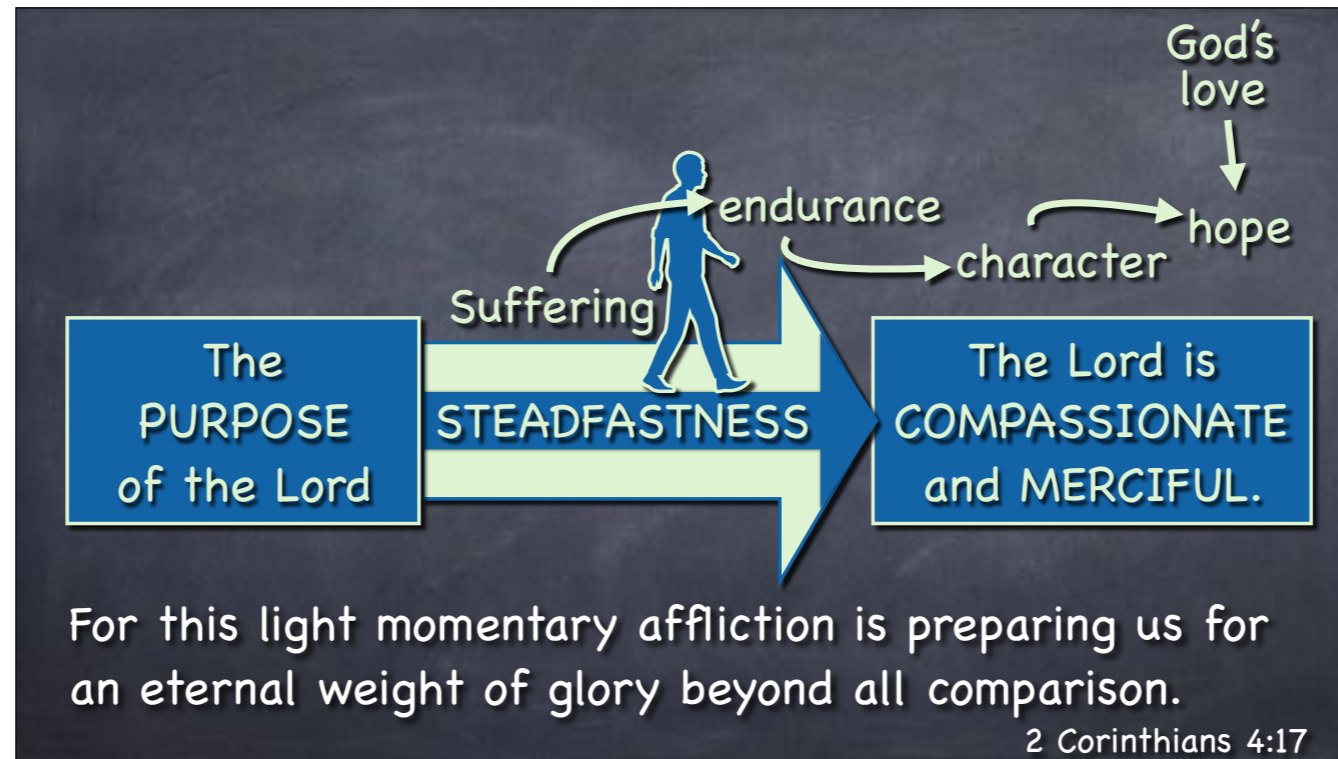
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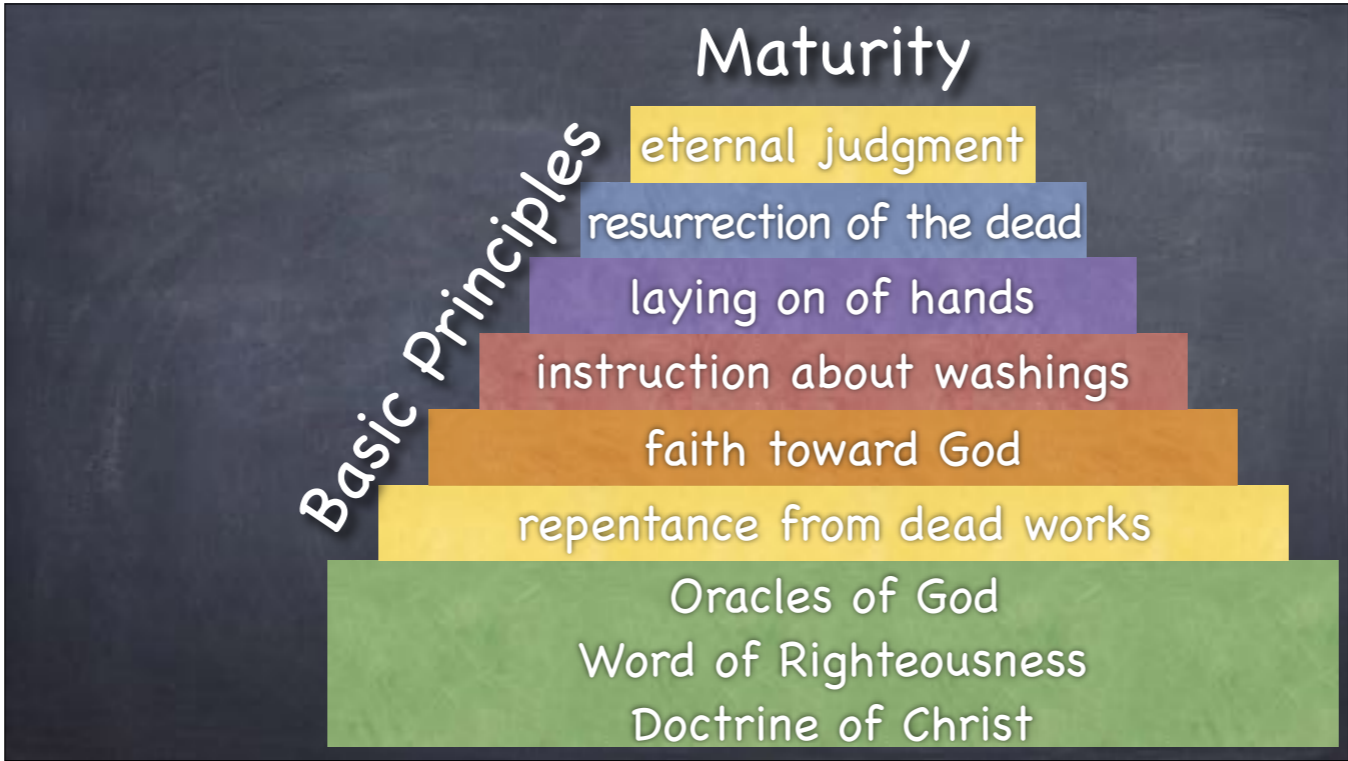
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV) 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



- You may be suffering today.
 - Financial, health, emotional, mental
- It may have just started ... or it may have been going on for a long time.
- Be steadfast
 - brethren to help (hopefully the right way)
 - consider the purpose of God
 - look to God with hope knowing that He loves you and is compassionate and merciful.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



- text

Go On to Steadfast Hope - Job's Steadfastness

Job & James 5:10-11

Synopsis: Job provides a wonderful example of how a mature righteous man endures suffering. James summarizes the lessons to be learned from Job. We must remember the Purpose of God; and we must remember the compassion and mercy of God.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."