



HOW TO OVERCOME TURBULENT TIMES (PART 2)

by Dr. Daniel O. C

As long as we live on earth, we are bound to go through turbulent times at some point of time in our lives. However, we need to give glory to God in every situation that we go through. Let us take a look at how Job overcame all the turbulent times in his life.

- Abraham had his trying time of waiting for 25 years upon the word of God to receive his son of promise.
- Jacob's turbulent time was he was cheated to work for Laban for twenty one years in order to be able to marry Rachel.
- Joseph's turbulent life consists of the 5 P's: Promise, Pit, Potiphar's house, Prison and Palace.
- Moses too had his share of turbulent times in the wilderness.

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- Nehemiah was persecuted and his life threatened in his turbulent time.
- Daniel suffered turbulent times as a result of being hurled into the lions' den because of his faithfulness to God.
- All of them suffered greatly in their turbulent times but they held on to God and endured to the end.

How do you handle the trying times in your life? Turbulent times are not here to crush you but they can mould you to be stronger in the Lord if you believe in Jesus. James 1:2-4 encourages us to, "...count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." The same God who helped them all to overcome will also help us to overcome our turbulent times in Jesus' name!

JOB'S TURBULENT TIMES

Job 1:13-22

13 *Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house;*

14 *and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,*

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- 15 *when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”*
- 16 *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”*
- 17 *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”*
- 18 *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,*
- 19 *and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”*

Job was a practical example of a man who faced intense trouble in his time. His house was demolished by strong winds which killed his ten children. Armed robbers and thieves ravaged and pillaged all his property. His body was also afflicted with severe sickness and disease. But in the face of all these, he remained steadfast in the spirit. The Holy Bible declared that Job was a man of patience in James 5:11, *“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”* Can we find people of patience in our world today?

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- Job suffered loss of property (Job 1:13-17), yet he did not commit suicide.
- He suffered loss of children (Job 1:18-19), but still he did not blame his neighbours for it.
- He suffered loss of health (Job 2:7-9), but he stood his ground in righteousness without blaming his food.
- His friends showed no sympathy (Job 16:1-3), but he did not insult them for it.
- Job suffered loss of friends (Job 30:1-10), but he maintained his hold onto God his Maker. His faith was strained and tested but he was victorious (Job 19:1-27).

TEN THINGS JOB DID

When all these things happened to Job, what did he do? What was his reaction when all these turbulent winds hit him?

Job 1:20-22

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

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- 21 *And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*
- 22 *In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.*
1. Job arose.
 2. He tore his robe as a sign of sorrow.
 3. He shaved his head as a sign of mourning. (Leviticus 21:5)
 4. He fell down to the ground in humility.
 5. He worshipped Jehovah God who had provided all his wealth.
 6. He consecrated himself to leave the world as naked as he had come into it.
 7. He acknowledged that God could give and take away.
 8. He blessed the name of Jehovah God.
 9. Job refused to sin against God.
 10. He did not blame God for all that had befallen him.

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Job's example tells us that whatever we may be suffering, we must not give up but resort to worshipping God instead. You may be weeping and saying that your tears have become your food. Don't give up but worship the Lord during this trying time.

Psalm 42:3

My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, "Where is your God?"

THE SIX AGENTS OF SATAN AGAINST JOB

It will be of interest to know the six agents that Satan used against Job. This will enlighten you of the weapons that Satan uses against God's people.

1. **The Sabeans** (Job 1:15) (wandering Arabians)
2. **Fire from heaven** (Job 1:16) (lightning)
3. **The Chaldeans** (Job 1:17) (Arabian plunderers)
4. **The elements** (Job 1:19) (great wind)
5. **Disease** (Job 2:7) (infirmity)
6. **An ungodly spouse** (Job 2:9) (wife)

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Job withstood and overcame all these agents of Satan. As a result, God blessed him abundantly more than what he had possessed before. Do not be an agent used by the devil to attack God's people. Do you ever wonder how you are going to worship God with all your problems? Are you asking yourself how are you going to praise the Lord with all these ridicules and conspiracies of those who do not mean well for you? Beloved, remember as you hold on steadfastly, you will be comforted.

Psalm 42:4-5

- 4 *When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.*
- 5 *Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*

You may have felt depressed when confronted with issues of life, inflation and economic hardship. Maybe you are depressed due to unemployment and joblessness. You may also be depressed due to your children's school pressure and youth's truancy or delinquency.

Maybe you are depressed due to the non-caring attitude of your spouse and your children's disobedience. Are you depressed due to the in-laws who have become out-laws amongst other problems. Beloved saint of God, your resolve must be "*yet I will rejoice in the Lord*" (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

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Nothing must discourage us from serving the Lord. We must be determined that no tribulations, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, nor sword shall separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:37-39). The real test that we are God's children comes when we remain consecrated in times of trials. It is often easy for any believer to rejoice when there are no sufferings to face. The test of your Christian faith comes when you remain consecrated and committed to God in turbulent times.

We have numerous promises of God to spring to our rescue in times of trouble. One of them is Psalm 91:15, *"He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."*

God's assurance is that no trouble and problem can overwhelm us. *"But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you'"* (Isaiah 43:1-2).

We all know that God is faithful to all His promises and He will fulfill them all (1 Kings 8:56 / Matthew 6:25-33).

- Times of trouble are times for Christians to draw grace from the Lord, to live consistently in the Lord in holiness and righteousness.

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- Times of trouble are times for us to move closer to the Lord, to dedicate ourselves more in the service of God in order to make spiritual progress.

Do not drift away from your faith when the going gets tough. Your problems must not build walls of separation between you and God. Do not deny God with your irresponsibilities. The Lord is the only one you can count and lean on. That way, the trouble we face would not have been in vain. Turbulent times will come and go but God remains the same forever.

Beloved saint of the living God, keep on pressing on to the end for there is light at the end of the tunnel. May the Lord be with us as we continue to serve Him in faithfulness, perseveringly and joyfully in Jesus' name, Amen!

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