1. ***Job 1: 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?”*
* God does not bestow evil upon us but rather He allows the perception of evil to come against us. Though we may perceive it as evil, in all actually, it’s really intended as a challenge; (or shall I say) an opportunity for Devine elevation. From the surface, it appears to be demonic demotion but deep down within, it’s nothing but God desiring to showcase your faith; to elevate/promote you from one level to another…
* **James 1: 13-17; L**et no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **B**ut each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **T**hen when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. **E**very good thing given and every perfect gift is from above…
1. ***Job 1:12****; Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only* ***do not put forth your hand on him****.”*
* Satan does not have blanket authority over us (in fact, he has zero authority over us) but he has to get permission from God before he can come against **(bless)** us…
* **Ps. 110: 1, 2-** The Lord says to my lord:“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” **T**heLord will extend your mighty staff from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!”
1. ***Job 1:21-*** *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.”*
* It is absolutely and vitally important that we be able to discern the difference between good works and evil works; because sometimes, life has a way of making that which is *good* to appear evil and conversely that which is *evil* to appear good…
* **Rom. 7:15**- For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
* **Rom.** **8:7-** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.
* **James 4:**4- Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
* **Matt. 23: 27-28**; **W**oe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. “**S**o you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
* Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can stand, Build your hopes on things eternal, “Hold to God’s unchanging hand.” Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring, if by earthly friends forsaken still more closely to Him cling.
1. ***Job 2:3****- Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”*
* In me~ God has placed His trust; He has put His namesake on the line; believing in my *patience*, my *persistence* and in my *perseverance*. In other words, God has placed His own integrity on the line for me. Believing that I will not let Him down but instead, I would prove Him right…
* **Eccl. 9:11-** I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but it’s given to the one that endures until the end.

1. **Job 2:9, 10-** *Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"* But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.
* Good (in God) is not always pleasant; sometimes good comes by way of *adversity*…
* God used the life of Job to be an example of Christ-like *integrity…*
* Satan used Job’s wife but God used Job’s life.
* **Is. 53:10**- Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief:
1. ***Job 3:25-*** *For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.*
* When your fears outweigh your faith, your burdens will (w/o fail) over-rule your blessings. Never allow your F.A.I.T.H. to be trumped by your F.E.A.R.
* **Rom. 10:17-** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.