

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

WHEN BY HIS LIGHT I WALKED THROUGH DARKNESS JOB 29

Text: Job 29:3

Job 29:3

³ When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

Introduction:

Job 29 gives us a detailed glimpse of the life of Job before he was afflicted by Satan.

Picture what has been going on in his life.

For a number of months, Job has been pounded by Satan with one affliction after another.

His children are dead.

He has been robbed of his possessions and his business.

Friends and servants have been murdered by enemies.

His family and friends have forsaken him because of his disease and because they believe he is being chastened by God for wickedness in his life.

It is in this setting that Job's mind begins to wander and ponder about his past.

He begins to think about the good old days before he lost everything.

The days of our past were much different than the days we live in now. Some feel we have progressed in America.

In some areas, especially in medicine we have progressed, but in reality, the wickedness and sinfulness that we have tolerated have caused our nation to digress.

We are not going forward as a country. We are going backwards.

Financially, our nation is digging its grave as our leaders continue to get us deeper into debt, printing money out of thin air and spending like there was no tomorrow.

We are 22 trillion dollars in debt.

Job was pondering the good old days in his own life.

Those days were now gone, but what he reveals about his past gives us a glimpse of what his life was like.

What he did in the good old days is an example for us to follow and should remind us what we enjoy right now in the Lord.

Notice:

Sermon Content:

1. THE PROTECTION OF GOD (VS. 1-2)

Job 29:1-2

¹ Moreover Job continued his parable, and said, ² Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;

These verse seem to give us a time line of Job's suffering.

It seems that this trial has been going on for several months.

He longed for the days when God preserved or protected him from calamity.

He longed for those times when the Lord was watching over him and shielded him from danger and pain.

Little did he realize that God was STILL watching over him, but Job did not feel this way.

Understand:

Even though you are going through a trial, it does NOT mean that God has ceased to care for you or watch over you. On the contrary, His eyes are ever upon you.

Psalm 34:15

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalm 33:18

¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

1 Peter 3:12

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Psalm 34:17

¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Thank God we are not forsaken when we are going through the fire! Your trial does not mean He is unconcerned about you!

Thank God for His care and protection.

If you know Christ as your Savior, your soul is protected and preserved by the Lord.

You cannot lose your salvation.

You did not gain your salvation by good works and you do not maintain it by good works.

John 10:28

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:5

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:1

¹ Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude 1:24

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Illustration:

In one of the Superman episodes, Superman saves a man from a burning building.

He rescues him from the top floor and is carrying him to safety by flying through the skies.

The man looks at Superman and then looks down to the ground. "I'm scared, Superman.

Look how far down that is."

Superman gives him a great answer.

"Now if I delivered you from the burning fire, what makes you think I am going to drop you when I'm carrying you to safety?"

The same is true with God.

If God has delivered you from a burning hell, what makes you think He will drop you before He safely puts you down? It's not going to happen.

Not only did Job Reflect on the Protection of God but he also reflected on the:

2. PROSPERITY OF GOD

Job 29:3

³ When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

Job 29:6

⁶ When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;

When Job speaks about the candle of the Lord shining upon him and His light, it is a reference to the favor of God upon his life and the direction and guidance that God gave to him.

Because of God's guidance, and because Job followed the Lord, God prospered Job.

The blessings that he enjoyed were gone and Job felt he was walking in darkness, in the sense that he could not understand why all these bad things were happening to him.

He looked to God for answers, but he wasn't getting any.

He longed for God's guidance and closeness with Him.

Understand:

We should never take for granted the favor of God upon our lives.

- God's favor was on Joseph when he was a keeper in the prison.

Genesis 39:21

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

- God's favor was with the Israelites when the departed from Egypt.

Exodus 3:21

²¹ And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

Exodus 11:3

³ And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

- God's favor was on Samuel as he grew up.

1 Samuel 2:26

²⁶ And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

- God's favor was on Mary as she was chosen to be the mother of the Lord

Luke 1:30

³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

- God's favor was with Daniel when he was taken captive in Babylon

Daniel 1:9

⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

We should never take the favor of God for granted; but we should be grateful for it.

We should also understand that the guidance of God is a great blessing.

Note these verses:

Psalm 32:8

⁸ I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 25:9

⁹ The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psalm 27:1

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 119:108

¹⁰⁸ Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.

Psalm 119:130

¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalm 19:8

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalm 18:28

²⁸ For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Proverbs 4:18

¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

We should be grateful for the guidance and prosperity of the Lord.

Not only did Job Reflect on the Protection and Prosperity of God but he also reflected on the:

3. PRECIOUS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Job 29:4-5

⁴ As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle; ⁵ When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me;

Job reflected on the days of his youth.

He speaks about the secret of God.

What is the secret of God? This word “**secret**” means intimacy or counsel.

It refers here to the revelation of God’s truth, wisdom, and light as Job walked in close fellowship with the Lord.

God gave to Job wisdom and insight. He had an intimate walk with God.

As God revealed truth to Job, he became closer to the Lord day by day.

Job missed the close fellowship that he had with the Lord.

He truly felt the Lord had left him.

Fortunately God had not left him.

There are Christians today that used to be close to the Lord and walked with Him every day, but because of sin in their lives, that intimate fellowship with the Lord is not what it used to be.

They rarely spend any time reading the Bible or praying.

We have considered three things that Job reflected upon.

Close:

We'll close for today and as we do let's reflect on what we have considered.

Understand there may will be times that Satan will bring things our way that will be difficult.

When those times come we should remember the Protection, Prosperity and the Precious fellowship we have with Him.

Maybe the fellowship you once enjoyed is not what it used to be.

You may need to ask the Lord to restore joy of His salvation in your life.