



Refuse to Leave Your Integrity and Your Faith!

Job 19:25; 27:5

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

When trouble comes, it can be a very confusing time. Throughout the book of Job, this sufferer, named Job, was overwhelmed by bad advice. And then, of course, Job must have had his own doubts. Since he lost his wealth, his children were killed, and his health, he was tempted to drop his promises to God and leave his faith in God.

Yet, after hearing all the advice and dealing with his own doubts, Job never wavered and never would not deny his values and his faith.

How do you keep from abandoning your integrity and denying your faith? Job teaches us **three lessons** to keep integrity and your trust in God vibrant when trouble comes.

I. Keep your guard up

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| 1. Don't give in to <u>despair</u> | Job 2:9-10
2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 73:26 |
| 2. Don't believe bad <u>theology</u> | Job 4:6-7; 8:20; 11:14-15; 27:5
Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35; John 16:33 |
| 3. Don't listen to <u>doubt</u> | Job 3:11; 7:11-21; 10:1-9,18;14:14
Psalm 16:8 |

II. Keep your integrity straight

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| 1. Live <u>righteously</u> | Job 2:10; Psalm 11:3 |
| 2. Live <u>obediently</u> | Job 23:11-12; Psalm 119:105 |

III. Keep your faith strong

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| 1. Trust God's <u>sovereignty</u> | Job 23:10; Romans 8:28 |
| 2. Believe in God's <u>deliverance</u> | Job 13:15-16 |
| 3. Be grateful for God's <u>providence</u> | Job 1:21 |
| 4. Live for God's <u>eternity</u> | Job 19:25-27 |

Your Response:

1. Have you seen someone go through a hard time and seen them throw their faith away? How did it turn out for them and what were the results? Compare their result with James 1:2-4,12. Ask yourself, is there really any benefit in doubt or back-sliding
2. What would tempt you to leave your faith? Where is your Achille's heel on abandoning your integrity? What would Job teach you about your vulnerabilities? What you need to do to keep from falling away?
3. In Job 23:12, Job spoke about the value of God's Word. Do you have a regular Bible reading regimen? How can add Scripture to your arsenal for fighting truth decay?
4. What do you need to do to strengthen your resistance to despair, bad theology, and doubt? Spend time with pencil and paper as well as in prayer to map out a strategy.

Resources:

Dialogue in Despair: A Pastoral Commentary on the book of Job by William Hulme
Be Patient by Warren W. Wiersbe
When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold Kushner
Disappointed with God by Philip Yancey
Everyman's Bible Commentary: Job by Roy Zuck