

The source of eternal salvation (Heb. 5:9)

We are limited beings. We are fraught with weakness. We grow tired and need rest, Yet we have access to an unlimited source of strength. A refreshing well of living water that wells up within the believer to eternal life. For those who wait upon the Lord, there is a renewed strength. What is impossible with man is made possible by God through His Son (Mat 19:26) Jesus is the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except by Him. His righteousness alone supplies all we need for eternal life. Yet we may find ourselves not walking in this truth, not walking in the light. In this darkness, we neglect so great a salvation. We cannot perfect in the flesh what was begun in the Spirit. If we hold fast to our integrity, our innocence, or our works we have departed from the truth. In darkness, we can't see where we are going. Another impossible situation arises for us, for we have fallen away. But we are not our own. We are bought with a price and God will not leave us in darkness. Jesus always lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25) Our advocate with the Father. Further, God the Father is busily at work, working all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

The Lord's dealings

Jas 5:11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that **the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.**

The kindness of God is what leads us to repentance. A repentance without regret. That which is impossible in the flesh, for worldly repentance produces death.

Job 23:8 "Behold, I go forward but He is not *there*, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

Job 23:9 When He acts on the left, I cannot see Him; He turns to the right, but I cannot see Him.

Job 23:10 "But He knows the way I take; When He has put me to the test, I will come out as gold.

- Where is Job during this time?
- What was the outcome of the Lord's dealings?
- What is really being refined?

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1Pe 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise,

glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

What are we holding onto?

This is the question that we may not even know the answer to. But God knows our hearts and will bring about situations that will work out unbelief and work in belief. (An example for us in Job)

Job 2:3 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. **And he still holds firm to his integrity**, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "**Do you still hold firm your integrity?** Curse God and die!"

Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You are speaking as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we actually accept good from God but not accept adversity?" Despite all this, **Job did not sin with his lips.**

Job 31:6 Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And **let God know my integrity.**

The cause of darkness

Job 32:1 Then these three men stopped answering Job, **because he was righteous in his own eyes.**

Job 32:2 But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned against Job; his anger burned **because he justified himself before God.**

If we say we have no sin then the truth is not in us. (1 John)

Job also crucifies Christ to himself all over again...

Job 34:35 'Job speaks without knowledge, And his words are without wisdom.

Job 34:36 'Oh that Job were tested to the limit, Because he answers like sinners.

Job 34:37 'For he adds rebellion to his sin; **He claps his hands among us, And multiplies his words against God.'**

If only there were an advocate... (words from Elihu)

Job 33:23 "If there is **an interceding angel** for him, One out of a thousand, **To remind a person of what is right for him,**

Job 33:24 And he is gracious to him, and says, 'Free him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom';

Job 33:25 Let his flesh become fresher than in youth, Let him return to the days of his youthful vigor;

Job 33:26 *Then* he will pray to God, and He will accept him, So that he may see His face with joy, And **He will restore His righteousness to that person.**

Rom 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because **He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Luk 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift you men like wheat;

Luk 22:32 but I have prayed for you, that **your faith will not fail;** and you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

God allows the devil to sift His children to purify their faith.

Back into the light

Job 42:5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; **But now my eye sees You;**

Job 42:6 Therefore I retract, And **I repent,** *sitting* on dust and ashes."

To enter into His rest is to walk in the integrity of Christ and not your own. A repentance without regret that sees the riches of Christ Jesus as far greater than anything we own ourselves including our own righteousness.

There is only one righteous

Psa 109:30 With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD; And I will praise Him in the midst of many.

Psa 109:31 For He stands at the right hand of the needy, **To save him from those who judge his soul.**

Psa 73:21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within,

Psa 73:22 Then I was stupid and ignorant; **I was like an animal before You.**

Psa 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand.

Psa 73:24 You will guide me with Your plan, And afterward receive me

to glory.

Psa 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven *but You?* And with You, I desire nothing on earth.

Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart *may* fail, *But* **God is the strength of my heart** and my portion forever.