

SO, WHAT'S THE POINT?

We are no better or worse than Job. He was human. He was not what some people would call perfect. He was not righteous because of what he did or what he had owned. But when everything he owned was taken (worldly goods and his health), he kept trusting God to work it out for him. He couldn't do anything in his own power to get through the trauma and the drama of his life. At his lowest point (oozing boils) he trusted God. The power of God allowed him to stand the test of affliction. Job didn't cave in and give up on his faith in God during the good times and the bad. Satan lost the bet and God won!

Because Job never gave up his faith and sinned by not believing God (unbelief), God restored twice as much as he had lost in all areas of his life (possessions, finances, children and his health).

HOW DOES THIS STORY HELP ME TODAY?

The book of Job gives us inside knowledge of the workings of God that can help us get through the rough times of our lives. Sometimes, really bad things happen to nice people. Remember, Job was a good, decent guy. He hadn't sinned to bring down this bad set of circumstances in his life. In fact, God was so proud of him, that He had bragged about him! God knew Job would hang in there with Him, no matter what happened. God is always 100% for us and not against us.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Start by acknowledging God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, the Savior in your heart of hearts. Call out to him to forgive you and save you. Pray this prayer: Lord, forgive me and come into my heart. Jesus, I receive you as my Savior, my Creator, my Deliverer. Since you created me, I accept you as my Healer of my weaknesses, my sinful ways, and of my unbelief. Come into my life with your Holy Spirit and help me to become all that you want me to be.

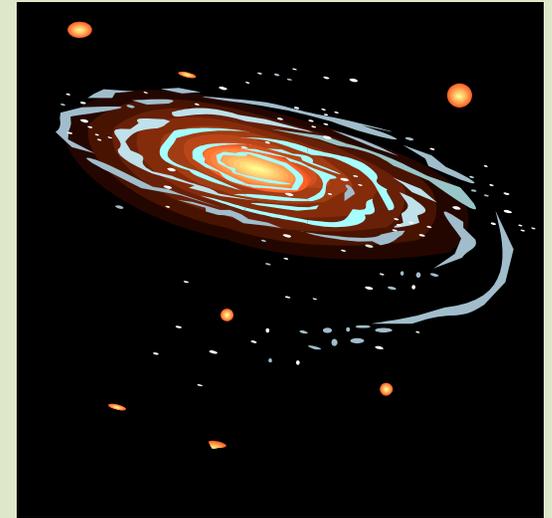
Then, pick up His love letter to you, the Bible. Start by reading the book of John. As you pick it up and read it, ask God to show you what He has in the book for you to help you get through your life. Let Him lead you down your path in life.

You can trust Him! He loves you and He will help you, no matter what!

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The Univer-sality



THE UNIVER-SALITY

Webster's dictionary defines universality as "the All Embracing Power, The totality of existing or created things, the heavenly bodies throughout space including Earth and everything created on Earth."

Do you believe this?

It is one thing to look through a highly refined telescope and find a new star a million light years away. It is another thing to realize that we are connected to One who created the stars and the universe and that this very Being created you from the dust of that creation!

THE FACTS OF LIFE

Not many people consider deeply the Father's power to create everything that has been created. We take it for granted. After all, the world as we know it has been here for ages and ages. The wonderful, unbelievable part of it all is that it was not only created for God's good pleasure, but also for ours!

HOW GOD WORKS

The Bible's book of Job provides us with a vivid example of workings of God that inspires us even today. God bragged that Job was a righteous man. Why? Because he had faith in God and knew in his heart that God wasn't a fairy tale. He was real! Job was not a perfect man, without sin, but he believed God existed. God counted that righteousness.

THE BET

Well, Satan (who God had kicked out of Heaven for mutiny) was allowed to come before God to talk. He told God that the only reason Job served God was because He blessed Job. Satan bet God, that if God took away Job's blessings, then Job would curse God. God had faith in Job, so He told Satan that he could do anything to Job that he wanted, but he couldn't kill him. The bet was placed!

THE TEST OF FAITH

Job was a very wealthy man. But after this bet was made in heaven, Job began to lose everything he owned. His 10 children died. He got boils all over his body. These boils oozed really yucky stuff. He was miserable. He even got to the point of wishing he hadn't been born. His wife told him that he should just curse God and die. But, he wouldn't. All of heaven was rooting for him because they knew about the heavenly bet.

Three of his friends came to console him, but, instead, they told him that he must have sinned and was being punished by God. Rather than help him, they made him feel a lot worse.

Then another friend, Elihu, came by. He told Job not to give up and trust God to work things out. Job was trying his best to not give up and hold onto his faith. He told God that he didn't understand. He whined and asked: Why God, why?

GOD STARTS TO TALK

Then God answers Job (Job 38) by asking "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" In other words, Job what do you know about anything and what gives you the right to question God, the creator of the universe, about what He does or does not do? Then God states, well, since you have asked me questions, now I am going to ask you some.

1. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding.
2. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know
3. Who stretched the line upon it?
4. To what is its foundations fastened?
5. Who laid out the borders of the seas and stopped them from overflowing their banks?
6. Have you given the horse strength?
7. Does the hawk fly by your wisdom?
8. Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
9. Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
10. Can you lose the belt of Orion? (stars)

Job was quiet. He had no answer.