

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the [patience of Job](#), and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful (full of pity), and of tender mercy.” James 5:11 KJV



It's hard to accept Job's trials were God's "tender mercies"; that our trials may be God's mercy, but notice the condition: "We count them happy which ENDURE." Endurance is happiness? God's Word raises two paradoxes: God's mercy bestows trials and enduring them is happiness. Human reason cannot reconcile these, except for those who trust God's Word which says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." We need not understand to obey, if we trust. You need not be a pilot to fly in a plane. Obedience verifies God is ALWAYS faithful and He loves us. "ALL THINGS (even the evil) work together for good TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD (conditional), to them who are the called according to HIS purpose." Brussel sprouts can be endured, if I know dessert is next! A child sees a fence as restriction rather than the protection of a loving parent. Setting a broken bone is temporarily painful and casts are restrictive, but they align the broken bone while healing to prevent permanent lameness. Job's trust was confirmed by his declaration: "Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust in Him." He believed in God's power of resurrection, and trusted so implicitly, death held no terror! Do we trust God that much or timidly draw back from His testing as though He meant us harm? Do we trust God or do we just give it lip service? I'm not saying jump off a cliff! Christ rebuked Satan for just such a challenge. "The devil...saith unto Him, 'If thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down'...Jesus said unto him, 'It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'" There is a difference between challenging and proving gravity! God has already decreed the law of gravity, so He predetermined consequence! Only fools challenge God! Obedience to God's Word verifies faith!

To wait on God reveals my trust,
My faith insists it must be thus,
And then when time is fully come,
I'll know God's Word stands fully done! ~CGP

Reminding God of His promises in times of affliction implies God forgets! "So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It is US who need reminding! EVERYTHING is according to God's plan! "He hath made everything beautiful in HIS time...from the beginning to the end." God's Word is infallible, immutable, and omnipotent! What God says, becomes! "And God said 'Let there be'...and...it was so! The heavens declare the glory of God." Man's "inventions" silence creation's declaration of God, but obeying God's Word begets trust and love of the invisible God! Those who disobey God do not know or love Him. Are your trials God's purpose or God's consequence? Before you say, study "the patience of Job" and why he was!

"Therefore being justified BY FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ – and Hope maketh not ashamed; because the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:1, 5 KJV