

No. 33 Lessons on Loyalty From the Book of Job (Symposium)
 -Loyal Despite Subtle Attacks

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes interviews. Follow instructions in assignment letter]

SATAN IS A DECEPTIVE ADVERSARY (2 min.)

It is not hard to identify direct attacks, such as outright opposition or persecution, as tests of loyalty

But discernment is needed to recognize Satan's *subtle* attacks and how they pose a threat to our loyalty to Jehovah

The God of truth has revealed in his written Word many of Satan's crafty methods of testing our loyalty

Jehovah warns us that the Devil "keeps disguising himself as an angel of light" (2Co 11:14)

Jesus exposed Satan as a ruthless liar and the originator of death-dealing falsehoods (Joh 8:44)

What more is revealed in the book of Job regarding our deceptive adversary, and how can we remain loyal despite his attacks?

IDENTIFY SATAN'S "VOICE" (6 min.)

By what means did Satan convey his slanderous lies to Job?

[Read Job 2:11]

It is not beneath Satan to use as mouthpieces our workmates, schoolmates, neighbors, and relatives

Job's acquaintance Eliphaz admitted to receiving counsel directly from a sinister source [Read Job 4:15, 16]

Eliphaz was repeating false reasonings that were of supernatural, demonic origin (w05 9/15 26 ¶2)

Satan's "voice" can be heard in what Eliphaz says at Job 4:18-20

[Read]

The Devil asserts that humans are not good enough to please God; this is a lie

Satan claims that God views us as too sinful to redeem and unworthy of any hope of a resurrection

Satan's lie implies another, namely, that God's requirements are too demanding for humans

Satan wants us to overestimate what Jehovah expects of us and to underestimate Jehovah's compassion, forgiveness, and support

Eliphaz voiced yet another malicious lie at Job 22:2, 3 [Read]

Here Satan claims that our integrity is of no value to Jehovah. Such vicious lies are an affront to our loving heavenly Father and his ransom provision

Only Satan the Devil, who is a slanderer and deceiver, could be their source

Many today are influenced by the Devil's campaign to promote wrong thinking and religious falsehoods (1Jo 5:19)

Satan's ungodly thinking can be heard in such comments as:

"Bible standards are too old-fashioned for our tolerant society and modern lifestyles"

"I believe in God too, but I don't believe that we have to be part of an organization to please him"

"Why don't you celebrate holidays? Don't you love your family?"

"Dating only other Witnesses is too restrictive"

When others criticize us for loyally keeping Jehovah's standards, we may feel mentally distressed and emotionally exhausted

As he tried to do to Job, Satan has the objective to discourage God's servants today, hoping that they will lose faith in Jehovah and confidence in his goodness

REJECT LIES WITH THE TRUTH (4 min.)

Misguided counsel or thoughtless remarks may even come from fellow believers (w02 8/15 28 ¶4)

For example, some might say: 'Why plan to reduce your secular work? You need to work hard now so that you will be able to retire comfortably'

Jesus immediately rejected wrong thinking expressed by his close friend Peter and exposed its source (Mt 16:22, 23)

Job rejected subtle lies, recognizing Jehovah as the Source of true wisdom (Job 28:12, 23, 28)

Job remained convinced that even if he died, Jehovah would remember him for his integrity (Job 14:14, 15; 27:5)

Never allow Satan's voice to echo in your mind; firmly reject his false reasoning with fundamental Scriptural truth

The truth is

- (1) You are capable of pleasing God (Ps 103:11-14)
- (2) Jehovah's requirements are reasonable (De 10:12, 13)
- (3) Your integrity is of great value in God's eyes (Pr 27:11)

You can deepen your appreciation for Jehovah's appealing qualities and strengthen your loyalty to Jehovah by drawing closer to him in prayer and by means of personal Bible study

Choose as your close associates fellow believers who strengthen your determination to remain loyal, even as God-fearing Elihu fortified Job (Job 36:5-7)

INTERVIEWS (5 min.)

[First, interview a publisher who has courageously resisted Satan's subtle attacks. Ask: What test of loyalty have you experienced? How did you draw closer to Jehovah and remain loyal? How did other mature Christians support you through this test? Second, interview an elder who is known to be empathetic, like Elihu. (w06 8/15 28) Ask: What tests of loyalty have you noted that affect members of the congregation? Why is patiently listening and providing Scriptural encouragement the best way to support fellow believers? Why do you view it as a privilege to remain loyal to God and to assist others to do so?]

LOYALLY STICK TO THE GOD OF TRUTH (2 min.)

So far in this symposium, we have learned that loyalty involves "sticking closely to someone or something even through difficult circumstances"

For true Christians, this means sticking closely to Jehovah God despite subtle attacks from Satan as well as outright opposition
How did Job prove loyal despite subtle attacks?

Job rejected satanic lies, trusted in God's wisdom, and accepted support from a faithful fellow worshipper of Jehovah

Meditating on Jehovah's creative works can also fortify our loyalty to him

Listen now as Brother _____ presents the next part of our symposium, "Lessons on Loyalty From the Book of Job—What We Learn From Natural Forces"

TO BE COVERED IN 19 MINUTES