**THERE’S ALWAYS A REMNANT**

***Job 1:12 (KJV) And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.***

Job was not only very wealthy but was also upright and God-fearing. His wealth placed him as the greatest from the east in his day. His daily devotion to God was unquestionable as he went beyond his personal sacrifice to regularly sacrificing burnt offerings on behalf of his children should they sin in the process of their feasting. Such was the lifestyle of Job until Satan showed up.

From our text, God allowed Job to be severely tempted but there was a ‘no-go’ area: no bodily harm. And so we see Job moving from being the wealthiest to becoming the poorest in a matter of hours. However, something was remaining – his life.

Think for a moment: can you imagine a very rich Spirit-filled believer suddenly becoming poor overnight? Many of our 21st century believers would be quick to say; “it can only happen in the Old Testament or maybe he was walking in some secret sins”. I used to teach in the past that Job suffered mainly as a result of living in fear and negative confessions (Job.3:25-26). But as I grew and did further studies, that explanation did not make sense anymore. In the first place, Satan already had the permission to carry out his onslaught and nothing stops a man with permit from using it effectively. Secondly, as far as God is concerned, material things don’t matter much in our relationship with Him. Hence He said; touch every other thing but not his body.

In the New Testament, Apostle Paul alluded to a possibility of the Job experience by admonishing believers to put on the whole armour of God to enable them stand in the evil day (Eph. 6:11-13). It was definitely Job’s evil day which comes to every believer but the good news is: something is always left.

Let me also stress here that God loves us more than things and would want to have us love Him irrespective of material possessions. Sadly, these possessions are what many use as a mark of God’s approval and spiritual promotion. Testimonies are shared only on material acquisition, financial increase and career accomplishment. Yet in the sight of God, all of that rank so little. Your life and how it is used to positively uplift humanity is what matters to God. While it is desirable to have a very comfortable life, a life of less comfort does not signify the absence of God. Embrace it and be happy.

***Phil. 4:11-12 - “****Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need****”.***

In all of Job’s travail he had his life intact as the remnant of all that had been taken from him. And in the process of time, God blessed Job and restored him such that his later end became greater than his beginning (Job 42:12). Like Abraham, Joseph and Daniel, Job passed his test and moved up in His relationship with God. This is because they all utilized their remnants effectively. Even in the captivity of Israel, there was always a remnant that God worked with to preserve His name and presence among the people (Isaiah 10:20-27).

As I conclude this piece, my admonition to anyone who may be having their evil day experience is to strengthen the things that remain (Rev.3:2) so that when the turmoil is over, you will still be standing. Determine in your heart like Job to always trust God even in your travail (Job 13:15). The exact time of restoration may not be known but it is guaranteed. Hold on my friend; your best days are still in front of you.

Have a beautiful week ahead.

PTony.