

What If The Hedge Comes Down?

I. Introduction:

A. Job was perfect (**Job 1:1**) and it was easy for him since everything in his life was going good (**Job 1:6-12**).

1. Job was able to initially endure the losses (**Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10**).
2. Yet, when the losses set in he then erred with his words (**Job 33:8-13; 34:5-9**) partially due to his self-righteous attitude (**Job 35:1-2**).
3. Job had to repent of all of this (**Job 42:1-6**).

B. Consider Paul on the other hand and how that his attitude was different when he suffered (**II Corinthians 12:1-10**).

1. Paul didn't need deliverance to be strong, for his perspective was right (**Romans 8:18**).
2. He therefore was able to teach the evangelist Timothy, in word and deed, to endure hardships (**II Timothy 2:1-4; 9-12**).

II. Body: *"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small"* (**Proverbs 24:10**).

A. If you live long enough, you will face adversity in this lifetime (**Ecclesiastes 3:1-10, Ecclesiastes 9:7-11, and Hebrews 13:1-3**).

1. Don't try to downplay how fleshly matters have a spiritual effect in our lives (**Galatians 5:17**).
2. At the very least, things we suffer through in the flesh are a spiritual distraction that is very dangerous (**Mark 4:19**).
3. There are plenty of things to distract us in this life (**I John 2:16**).
4. Therefore, we have a responsibility to behave wisely (**I John 2:15-17; cf. Ephesians 5:15-17**).

B. To receive the reward of eternal life, you cannot faint [become weak; tired; cease] (**Galatians 6:9**).

1. We all have things God expect us to do regardless of what we are facing in this world (**Hebrews 10:35-39**). Consider a FEW (of many that could be listed) examples:

- a. Can't quit on God (**I Corinthians 15:58**).
- b. Can't quit on your family (**Ephesians 5:22-6:4, Colossians 3:18-21, and Titus 2:3-5**).
- c. Can't quit on your financial obligations (**Psalms 37:21**).

2. You have to be strong enough to keep focused while this world and life in general beats you up (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

C. Measure your strength (**Revelation 3:1-2**).

1. We are not presently facing severe conditions that test our strength (i.e. **Matthew 23:34, Acts 5:40-42**, etc.).
2. Yet, we still have to individually, honestly examine and fortify ourselves (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).

D. Use adversity to become stronger rather than weaker (**James 1:2-4; 12**).

1. Don't just pack it in and look for the exit when the going gets tough (**Romans 5:1-4**).

2. While help exists among our brethren (**Galatians 6:2**), don't always seek it (**Galatians 6:3-5**).

3. Learn to turn, in all we face, away from the physical distress to our spiritual strength (**II Corinthians 4:8-5:4**).

III. Conclusion: If You Want Endure Like Paul, Don't Need The Hedge (**Philippians 3:4-15**).