



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## AN EXCEPTIONAL SERVANT OF GOD

**W**hen we think of great biblical examples of what it means to be a follower of God, there are many names that come to mind.

We often think of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul, and several others. However, there is one man who God said is an extraordinary. This man was Job. In Job 1:8 we see, “and the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God, and turns away from evil?’” Those are some strong words that God used to describe Job. We know that God does not lie and if he said there is none other like Job, then there was none other like Job. Just as with Moses, God said he was the most meek man on the earth (Numbers 12:3). Job was the greatest example of a follower of God at this time. What made him so great? God tells us that Job was perfect and upright. He goes on to define that by saying “one that fears God, and turns away from evil.” This is what made Job such a great example. At first these things do not seem that impressive. However, when we begin to examine them we realize how important they are.

The first characteristic that God mentioned was that Job feared the Lord. Solomon wrote, “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (Proverbs 9:10). The fear of God is one of the most fundamental aspects of serving Him. Christ told us, “and do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Fearing the Lord is essential to follow Him. If we do not fear Him then, we fear men. Christ tells us that the fear of men is pointless because they are virtually powerless. Job understood this. He did not fear men or what they said

about him. Whoever we fear is who we obey, and Job did not fear men, he feared the Lord. If we desire to be an example to those who are without the church, we must fear God.

The second characteristic of Job was that he turned away from evil. So, Job avoided and abstained from sin. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 instructed us to, “abstain from every form of evil.” This means that when evil comes around we leave. Just as Job did, we are to avoid that evil. We are to not have anything to do with sin. Paul also gave some sage advice to Timothy when he wrote, “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22). This is the other thing that made Job the great man and example that he was. He resisted the devil. Even in the midst of his turmoil and pain it says that, “in all this Job did not sin, nor charge God with wrong” (Job 1:22). To be a great example we must avoid, and abstain from sin.

Christ tells us that we are to be examples to the rest of the world so that they will bring glory to the Father (Matthew 5:13-16). Do we truly fear God and abstain from evil? If not, then we are failing to be the light that this world so desperately needs.

Renn Ferguson