

WINNING THE BATTLE IN YOUR MIND: FAITH KNOWS

Scripture used: [Job 42:2 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today's speaker, Pastor Tony Williams, is a fighter. Not only spiritually but through his experience in over 30 surgeries over the last 4 years, including enduring mistakes in surgery, being connected to a ventilator, and surviving an induced coma. Tony's faith in God and God's faithfulness to him let Tony preserve through these difficult moments. Today's scripture, [Job 42:2](#) relates to Tony's experience and many of ours. Tony calls his experience "trials of the Job variety" because it is similar to what Job went through. In the book of Job, the honest and powerful portrayal of a good man who is suffering and doesn't know why is an experience many of us go through. Job proves that genuine faith cannot be destroyed, despite all the difficult challenges raised by his life circumstances. Job's life lessons and his faith are a testimony to how we can all preserve through our life circumstances and have an overcoming faith through it all.

KEY POINTS

- 1) In chapter 22 of Job, Eliphaz, one of Job's friends, tells Job that if he could just find God everything will be okay. The problem with this is that in chapter 23, Job doesn't know where to find God or how to find God. Job says, "Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come to his seat." He goes on to say, "Look, I go forward, but he is not there. I look backward, but I can't perceive him. When he works on the left hand, I cannot behold him; when he turns to the right hand, I cannot see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he tests me, I shall come forth as gold" ([Job 23:8-10, NKJV](#)) This scripture is a testament to Job's faith even when he didn't understand why he lost everything. Job didn't understand why he had to suffer so much pain and why things weren't working out, including the betrayal of his friends and wife and the loss of his children. One thing that Job was aware of, though, is found in chapter 19:25 which says, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and he shall stand at last on the earth." Job was saying, "I don't know where God is or how to find him, but I know he's aware of everything during this season of my life." God is aware of all your problems, feelings, and needs during this season in your life.
- 2) In [Hebrews 11:6](#) the scripture says, "But without faith, it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is." Similarly in [2 Timothy 1:12](#), "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day." The word choice of commit is specific and similar to the way we keep our money in a bank and trust in the bank, in the same way, we commit to God with our faith in the beliefs we have of him.
- 3) In [Romans 8:28](#), "And we know all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are the call according to his purposes." All things work together not by accident, but because God is working in all things through our lives. It's been said that "those who leave everything in God's hands, will eventually see God's hands in everything." We can all see that Job endured all of his trauma and losses with great patience, a virtue we often run out of. The key or secret to Job's patience was that Job believed that God had authority over every circumstance that he faced in his life, and that God would have the last word. In other words, Job maintained his trust in God. Job believed and understood that no matter what happened God was for him, he knew that God was on his side. God is on your side too.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are you convinced of about God's promises and His word? Are there times in your life when you have known for sure that God is real and that He loves you? What are these moments? How have you held onto them? Have you written them down? Or shared them with others?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - How have you committed to your faith, or to your pursuit of God? Whether it be through daily prayer, participating in a life group, or watching and participating in the weekly sermons, these are all effective ways to commit to your faith and keep the communication between you and God growing. Have there been times you have felt like Job in [Job 23:8-10, NKJV](#)? Are you in such a season now? Share together in your life group the testimonies of those who have persevered in spite of seasons where God seemed absent. What helped people to hold onto God even in difficult times?
- 3) **DO** - Contemplate on this week's reflection question, "Where am I challenged to give up on God because I don't understand what God is doing?" Please join us next week as we continue the "Winning The Battle In Your Mind" series. Be blessed and see you next Sunday!