

Volume 3 - Day 14: Intimacy Endures All Adversity

David was known as a man after God's own heart. He seemed to have few lapses in his focus on God. Yet his life was filled with trouble, heartache and relational carnage.

It is recorded in the story of Job that **Job** prayed daily for himself and his family. He was as true as true can be with respect to his allegiance to God. Yet, in one fell swoop, Job lost all of his children and grand children. Everything they had was reduced to rubble. Job was even inflicted with extreme medical maladies.

Another faithful man, **Joseph**, had tremendous faith and intimacy with God, but suffered incredible injustice at the hands of his own brothers. So just because one finds God to be very dear to himself, does not mean that life will be any easier than it is for an irreligious man. In fact, there is significant evidence that life is often more difficult for God's best servants than for most others.

Many believers through the ages from Jesus until now had a similar yet uncommonly deep affection for God. To be sure, their source of love and ours is the same rushing river of God. Anything positive in relationship flowing from us is simply the overflowing of our banks by the rising river of God's love. Left to ourselves our human nature will selfishly extract love from others rather than to lavish it upon them. To become channels of God's love to others is the very purpose for which we were apprehended (stopped in our tracks) by God. Paul stated in Philippians 2:13, "... but I follow after so that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Jesus Christ."

Tragically, many churches teach faith in Jesus, but little more. Relationships will ultimately fail unless the parties continue in hot pursuit of their mutual desire for each other. The primary objective for us and the purpose of God in creation is to develop an up close and personal relationship with Him.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan