

GOD WINS
Power Struggle Series - Part 10
Andy Barker

Good morning Life Fellowship. I am not Pastor Ben. Ben was supposed to be up here this morning, but as you may already know he had Covid a couple of weeks ago. And then earlier this week it was supposed to be the end of his quarantine but instead he came down with pneumonia. So with Pastor Dan away, Ben reached out to me and asked me to pinch hit for him. Sometimes you have to bring in a pinch hitter because the situation calls for it. And sometimes a starter goes down in the middle of the game and you have no choice but to put in the guy who is sitting there on the bench with his warm up jacket on, chewing sunflower seeds, and not expecting to play, when suddenly he finds himself at home plate. So here I am. (*Applause.*)

I am Andy Barker and I am one of the elders here at Life. And though it was unexpected, I am happy to be here. Before we jump into the message, would you pray with me. *God, thank you for your Word. And thank you for this time that we have to open your Word together. We will be wading into deep waters this morning, so I pray for your help. Let your truths be made known clearly and powerfully in the hearts of your people through this message. I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.*

So we are in the final week of a ten week series on spiritual warfare called 'Power Struggles.' Over the last nine weeks we have considered many of the battlefields that fall under the banner of spiritual warfare. I think it is fair to say that a lot of what has been discussed can be intimidating and even overwhelming. And so I thought it would be fitting to entitle this message, this final message about the power struggle simply this: 'God Wins.'

We will be in the story of Job, and I have a one sentence summary of what we will be looking at that I will repeat over and over again in hopes that you will walk out of here and be able to remember it, and be strengthened by it. Here it is: *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks God wins, for our good and His glory.'* We will break that sentence down, and I want to show you how pieces of it comes right out of the story of Job, because I want you to receive it, not of what I am saying, but as what God is saying through His Word. I don't want you to just be able to repeat it; I want you to believe it, so that you can be confident in your trials.

So here it is again: *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks God wins, for our good and His glory.'* Let's begin by reading from Job Chapter 1 and I would invite you to open up your Bibles to that. Job Chapter 1 beginning in verse 6, and I will read all the way through Chapter 2 and verse 10. But before I do I just want to say a brief word about the reliability of this book. What we are about to read is a crazy story, and to the modern mind it would likely raise doubts as to its credibility. So

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someone may challenge us as believers saying: *‘Do you actually believe that this really happened? Do you actually believe that Job was a real person?’*

And I would say, *‘Yes, I do.’* And here is why - Job is mentioned by name in Ezekiel Chapter 14 and in James Chapter 5 as if he is a real person. And Paul quotes the book of Job as Scripture in I Corinthians Chapter 3. So I will align myself with Ezekiel, James and Paul and treat this story as the inspired Word of God for us.

So with that said, I will begin reading in Job Chapter 1 and verse 6. *“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”*

“Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

Verse 13: *“Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”*

Verse 17: *“While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”*

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Verse 20: *“Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord.” In all of this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”*

Chapter 2: *“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.”*

Verse 4: *“Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.”*

Verse 9: *“Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all of this Job did not sin with his lips.”*

The first thing to know in this passage is who is this individual that our Bible identifies as Satan? It is important to point out that in the original language Satan isn't as much a name as it is a title. The Hebrew word is *sāṭān* which we have just carried over to English as Satan. But again it is not a name; it is just a regular word that is usually translated as ‘adversary or accuser.’ And what is unique here is that there is a definite article in front of it, and so it is not just ‘an adversary,’ it is ‘the adversary.’

I point that out because I think it is helpful to know that when you read the word Satan in your Bible, the full meaning behind it is ‘the adversary.’ That is who we are dealing with. Satan is the adversary. He is the adversary of God, and as His children, he is our adversary. He stands against us, seeking to disrupt God’s plan, and to destroy God’s people. And that gives us the first part of our sentence: ‘Our adversary,’ (Satan,) ‘is powerful, but limited; and through Satan’s attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.’

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Next I want to show that Satan, our adversary, is powerful and from what I read I am sure you see that already. Satan is powerful. In the book of Job we see how powerful he is as we see him attack Job with the sword, with storms, and with sickness. So let's look briefly at each of those. First we will see the power of our adversary in the attacks he brings against Job with the sword.

After Satan leaves the presence of God the first time we see him bring two raids of attackers where Job's animals are stolen, and his servants are murdered. Look at verse 14 where it says: ***“There came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword.”*** And then in verse 17 it says: ***“There came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword.”*** Apparently Satan has the power to rouse men to battle for his desired end. Our adversary is powerful and he attacks with the sword.

We also see the power of our adversary when two times Satan attacks with storms that kills Job's animals, more of his servants and his children. Verse 16: ***“There came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them.”*** Verse 18: ***“There came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead.”*** Here Satan harnesses the power of storms to continue to torment Job. Our adversary is powerful and he attacks with storms.

Now after these attacks in Chapter 1, Satan presents himself again before the Lord in Chapter 2, and then he leaves God's presence again to continue his attacks on Job. This time though he attacks Job directly. And we see Satan's power as he attacks Job with sickness. Chapter 2 and verse 7 says: ***“So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”*** Our adversary is powerful and he attacks with sickness.

And with that I hope the point is clear. Satan, our adversary is powerful, far more powerful than we are. And he intends to use that power to destroy us. But that's not all, remember our sentence: *‘Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks God wins, for our good and His glory.’* One of the most powerful things I have ever experienced was a lava flow in Hawaii. My wife Melanie and I were there on our honeymoon and we were staying right outside of the Volcanoes National Park on the big island. And at that time the volcano, ‘Kilauea’ was active. It was not like it was spewing

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lava out of the crater, but it was just a continuous slow flow of lava down the mountainside and into the ocean.

During the day you couldn't see much other than the steam rising from where the 2,000 degree lava flowed into the ocean. The whole side of the mountain was black as though the lava on the outside quickly cooled, but you could kind of just barely see it moving. At night it was a totally different experience. In the darkness you could see scattered spots of glowing lava on that whole side of the mountain. So one night Melanie and I drove down to an area where we could get a closer look. And we walked along a path which brought us near to where the lava was flowing. As we stood there looking around taking it all in, about twenty-five feet from where we were standing, a flow of lava broke out onto the ground and oozed its way across. You could feel the heat and we just stood there in awe. And it was the most amazing thing I have ever seen.

Now if a few details in that story were changed it could have been the most terrifying experience of my life. But as it were, we knew that where we were standing was beyond the limit of where the lava would flow, so we knew that we were safe. Because the lava was bound by the limits we had a healthy fear, but we were not terrified. It was the most powerful force of nature I have ever encountered.

And Satan is the most powerful adversary we have. But just as the limit of where the lava would flow kept me from being terrified, knowing that Satan too has limits will help us to be watchful, but not terrified. For all the power that is on display in Satan's attacks, there are also important insights in this story to an even more important truth and that is - Satan is limited.

Two times we are given a glimpse of a heavenly scene where angels present themselves before God and where Satan, a fallen angel, includes himself with them. And two times we read this exchange between God and Satan, in Chapter 1 and verse 7 and in Chapter 2 and verse 2: ***“And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”*** From this I want to make one small observation. Satan is not omnipresent. Satan is not everywhere at once. He describes himself as ***“going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”***

Now the reason I point that out is because just as it is dangerous to underestimate the power of Satan, to overestimate him is also dangerous. Sometimes the way we talk about Satan sounds as if we think he knows all things, that he can do all things, and that he sees all things. But those are attributes of God, and God alone. Only God is omniscient. Only God is omnipotent. Only God is omnipresent. Satan is creates head;

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God is creator. Satan is limited. Our adversary is powerful, but limited. Yes, Satan is far more powerful than we are, but his power pales in comparison to God's.

And what we read in Job actually allows us to go further than that. Not only is Satan limited in power as a being created by God, but Satan is even further limited because God has Satan on a leash. When I was young I was a paper boy. Every day I rode my bike and delivered newspapers to about 50 homes on my street and other streets nearby. And at one of those homes was a dog that did not like me. It was a Dalmatian. Up until meeting that dog I thought Dalmatians were nice, happy dogs that just rode alongside firefighters; but not this one. He was mean and he had it out for me.

One day as I was delivering the paper at this dog's house, he came out with his owner and he bit me. Thankfully he just got my coat and tore my pocket. But another time the dog was in the yard and he saw me from far away and he started to bark and charge at me hard. He was running toward me at full speed and he ran right into a tree. He stumbled backward a bit and he just looked at me as if to say, '*How did you do that?*' And it turned out that after that time he never bothered me again.

But that dog was not the worse one. There was another dog at the house of a friend of mine and that dog's name was Roscoe. This was an outdoor dog, and he was vicious. Every time I came to the house he would incessantly bark and growl, show his teeth and charge at me. The difference was this dog was on a leash. There was a chain around his neck that was connected to a stake that was driven into the ground, and it insured that no matter how hard he tried, Roscoe could not get to me. Regardless I stayed away from the dog, but not my friend. He would walk right up to the edge of where the dog could reach and just taunt him. And even though he was the dog's owner he would charge at him barking and trying to get to him. But he couldn't because that leash kept him in place and would not allow him to go any further.

In the same way Satan is a vicious dog, eagerly desiring to attack anyone he comes across. Or better yet, I Peter Chapter 5 and verse 8 describes him like this: "***Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.***" But God has him on a leash.

Let me show you why I say that. Two times in the first two chapters of Job God gives permission to Satan to attack Job, but two times He sets a limit on how far Satan can go. Satan needs permission, and God gives him parameters, and that is the leash. In Chapter 1 and verse 12 it says: "***And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand."***" And then in Chapter 2 and verse 6 it says: "***And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."***"

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What Satan does to Job is by God's permission and under His sovereign guidance with a limit set by God that Satan must adhere to. We actually also see this in the gospels when Jesus encounters demons. In Luke Chapter 8 Jesus heals a man who had many demons. The legion of demons that easily overpowered that man are seen begging Jesus, and obeying Jesus. It is not until Jesus gives them permission that they leave the man and enter a herd of pigs that all drown in the ocean. And in Mark Chapter 1 Jesus casts out another demon and in amazement the people who witnessed this said this: "***He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.***"

So what are we to make of this? It is clear in these texts that God is setting the parameters and Satan and demons must obey. But if God has that power over Satan, why doesn't He tighten the leash and drag him out to the doghouse and board up the door so that he can never come out? Well, the truth is one day God will do even better than that. Revelations Chapter 20 and verse 10 shows us that the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

So why doesn't God just do that and get rid of Satan now? Or why didn't He do that immediately after the fall of Adam and Eve? Or why not before the fall? It is clear that the reason God has not gotten rid of Satan is not because He cannot get rid of him; that day is coming, but why wait? The sentence that we have been working through says it this way: *'Through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.'* The reason God doesn't dispose of Satan is because He has a use for Satan.

There is a scene in the movie '1917' where the two soldiers, Blake and Scofield, come across a home. And as they explore the property they enter into a grove of cherry trees. It is clear that enemy soldiers had come through, and what is shocking to Blake and Scofield is what these soldiers had done to the cherry trees. All of them had been cut down. As if the damage of war is not enough, why go through the ordeal of cutting down all these beautiful trees? It is a senseless, unnecessary and excessive act of destruction.

As it turns out Blake knows quite a bit about cherry trees, because his mom has an orchard back home. Scofield asks Blake if these cherry trees are all goners. And this is what Blake says in response: *"No, they will grow again. You will end up with more trees than before. It is precisely because of the destruction that there will be a greater abundance."* This is a principle of God's dealings in this fallen world that He has built into nature itself. The evil of this world often seems senseless and excessive, but just like that grove of cherry trees, God uses Satan's attacks to bring about even greater things than what Satan takes. *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.'*

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Now when I say God wins, I don't mean that He only wins eventually. It is not as though Satan will wreak havoc throughout history while God waits until He finally puts His foot down at the very end. God will bring that victory and final silencing of Satan and all evil. Yes, God absolutely wins in that final and ultimate sense. But God also wins in every attack from Satan. Because Satan is on God's leash He is sovereign over his attacks, and He has a design for them to be used for our good and His glory. And we can see both of these things in Job's story.

First, let's look at how God gets the glory through Satan's attacks. Do you remember what Satan was hoping to accomplish in afflicting so much pain on Job? In both Job Chapter 1 and verse 11 and in Job Chapter 2 and verse 5 Satan claims that if Job faces suffering he will curse God to His face. Then Satan brings all that he can to drive Job to that point. But what happens?

In Job Chapter 1 and verse 21 we have his first response: ***“And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord.”*** And then it says this: ***“In all of this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”*** And then in Job Chapter 2 and verse 10 Job says: ***“Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”*** And then again Job says: ***“In all of this Job did not sin with his lips.”***

Satan thought he could bring one of God's children to the point of turning away from Him, but he failed. Satan thought that Job only loved God because God gave him good things, and that if those things were taken Job would reject God. But instead Job's faith was unwavering, showing that God is worthy of our praise regardless of our circumstances. In this God was glorified and Satan was humiliated before all the angels that were a witness to this, and before everyone who has ever read this story throughout history.

And have you considered that Job didn't know any of this? Satan is mentioned fourteen times in the first two chapters of Job, but he is never mentioned again in the last forty chapters. Job never knew why any of this happened to him. Whenever we get sick or whenever we suffer we can't know if it is a specific attack from Satan, but here is what we do know. We know that in all of our suffering no matter what its source, Satan's desire is for you to curse God. And God's desire is for us to glorify Him.

With whom will you align yourselves? Are you willing to be used in this way? Are you willing to see Satan's attacks through this lens? Are you willing to endure loss and pain and injustice in such a way that it declares to the watching world, and even to watching angels, that your joy does not rest in the things of this world, but in God alone? May it be that Job's words are a reflection of our hearts so that in us God is glorified in

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our suffering and loss. *“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord.”*

Now if in any way the thought of God using the intense, painful suffering of His people for His glory sounds as if we are meaningless pawns in a cosmic chess game, that is not the case. First of all, this is God’s universe and He is right to work in all things and in all ways to bring glory to Himself, because all glory rightly belongs to Him and Him alone. And we could stop right there and we would have no grounds for any of what has been said to be classified as unfair or unjust.

But that is not all there is to be said. One aspect of the glory of God is His goodness, shown in His kindness and grace in caring for His children. Part of the gift of our salvation is that we get wrapped up, and whatever God does for His glory it also works for the good of those who love Him. God did not use Job for His glory; God used the evil of what Satan did to Job for His glory, and He also used it for Job’s good.

And that is what fills in the final piece of our sentence. *‘Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan’s attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.’* Through Satan’s attacks God wins because it is for our good. Let’s look at how Job’s suffering was for his good. And to see that we will need to go to the very last chapter in the book which is Chapter 42. Now I realize I am skipping over thirty nine chapters, and I don’t want to neglect all that goes on there. So I want to acknowledge this: It is clear in Chapters 3 through 41 that Job is in deep agony and voices painful laments and frustration over all that has happened to him. He cries out to God and questions if He even hears him. And he even goes so far as to wish that he had never been born at all.

So in all of this talk about God being glorified and it being for our good you will not hear me say that it is easy. Suffering is not easy and it helps no one to pretend as if it should be. In our suffering it is appropriate to hurt, the Bible makes that clear. But the Bible also makes it clear that at the same time as we hurt it is also possible to hope. And I think that is a large part of why God gives us stories like Job in His Word.

So let’s see how Satan’s attacks were for Job’s good. In Chapters 38 to 41 God responded to Job, and then in Chapter 42 we see Job’s response to God’s revelation of Himself. In Job Chapter 42 starting in verse 1 it says this: *“Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”* And then in verse 3 he says: *“I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”* And then in verse 5 he says: *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

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Because of Satan's attacks, Job got to see more of God, and learned that he could trust Him even when it doesn't make sense. And in addition to that we see in verses 10 to 17 that God restored all that Satan had taken from him. God gave Job seven sons and three daughters just as he had before. And God restored to him twice as much livestock as he had before. The number of animals that are listed in the epilogue in Chapter 42 is exactly two times what was listed in the prologue in Chapter 1.

In our suffering it feels meaningless, and it feels like God has forgotten us. And it feels like all we have is lost, but what Job teaches us is that our suffering is meaningful in God's eyes. And that God is intimately aware of every detail of our pain, and we can be assured that all suffering endured with steadfastness will lead to a greater gain. What God gives back to Job in restoration is greater than what he lost in suffering.

And there is a connection between the two so that it is clear that nothing has been forgotten with God. And the same is true for us in our suffering. Job received back two times what he lost, but we are promised infinitely more. Listen to what Paul says in II Corinthians Chapter 4 and verses 16 and 17: ***“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”***

So Job lost sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys; that was his light momentary affliction. And it is precisely because of his loss of those things that he had restored to him two times as many sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys. There is a connection between the two because of the loss on the one hand there is a fuller restoration on the other hand. And Paul says it this way: ***“This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”***

For Job it was two times more, but for us the glory that awaits us is beyond all comparison. While our afflictions certainly don't feel light, they will be as nothing when compared to the glory that is to come. Paul says this so that we do not lose heart, so that we can persevere through affliction knowing that nothing is wasted with God. *‘Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.’* Remember that and do not lose heart.

If you are suffering right now I hope those words are a balm for your soul. And listen, if you are not suffering right now, I hope that you can lodge these truths deep into your heart so that when trials come you can stand firm in the hope that God is in it, and He is with you, and He is for you.

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My family has been a foster family for a number of years. We entered into foster care in hopes of being able to adopt. And about six years ago we got a call about an eight week old baby boy whose mom had left the state, and his dad had dropped him off at DSS because he couldn't care for him. This looked like the perfect situation for us to be able to give a forever home to a child who did not have a family. And so we took that baby in and raised him as our own.

He learned how to roll over. He learned how to crawl. He learned how to walk in my home. Everything was moving forward for us to be able to adopt him; it was just a matter of time. But instead, a family member unexpectedly said that she would take him, and the judge ruled that this was what was going to happen. We were shocked. We were heartbroken. And it felt as if it was a trap; it was such a perfect scenario that made us say yes to enter into it. We took him in, and it was like a gift from God; it was the perfect situation. We thought he would be our adopted son. But then after living with us for a year he was taken from us.

Those were hard days. And though it was tempting to think as if it had all been a waste, we knew that love is never a waste. And what steadied Melanie and I through that time was knowing that God was in it, and He was in it for our good. I can remember one time I was sitting in a chair, and Melanie was standing in front of me, and we were both hurting. We were having a conversation, but it was mostly silence because there wasn't much that could be said. But I do remember this - Melanie just simply said, '*God is good.*' And it wasn't a happy and trite 'God is good;' it was said with tear filled eyes, '*God is good.*'

I can't describe it to you, but I knew exactly what she meant. God's Spirit was ministering that truth to our hearts in a way that is so much deeper than words can express. It would be many months before we got back into foster care after that. And when we did, here is what we said: '*We will do foster care again, but we do not want to take a placement that is filled with unknowns where a child stays with us for a really long time without resolution.*' And I kid you not, the first placement that we took was a thirteen month old baby, who has now been with us for four and a half years without resolution. Fortunately, we are on a path to adopt him, but this case has been filled with ridiculous delays.

There have been car accidents, snow storms, lies, mistakes, and even Covid, all making this case drag on for so long. I counted ten court dates in 2019 that seemingly accomplished nothing. We actually had a court date this past Friday where we were expected to take a major step forward and closer to adoption, but instead late on Thursday night we got the call that our court date was cancelled. As I was preparing this message I

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got up to take a break and I looked at my phone and I saw in my calendar we still had 'Court' in there. When I saw that I felt frustration and weariness with the situation well up in me. And in that moment I needed to remind myself - *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.'*

This case has been extremely long and extremely challenging, but we have seen that truth proved true in all the ways that God has grown us through it. I hope it is clear to you from the story of Job that that sentence is true. And I hope that it can be an anchor for you when the waves of suffering threaten.

In closing, consider with me these two questions. Number one - what is the worst thing that ever happened in the world? It would have to be Jesus' death on the cross, right? When the perfect creator was rejected and brutally murdered by those He had created. The second question - what is the best thing that has ever happened in the history of the world? Wouldn't that also be Jesus' death on the cross? It was when the Son of God freely offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to save those who were His enemies so that they could be adopted as sons through faith in Him.

Luke Chapter 22 and verse 3 tells us that Satan entered into Judas when he went away to devise the plan to betray Jesus that led to Him being crucified. This is the most powerful example of the truth that we have been saying all along: *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.'* Listen, if God's plan of salvation uses the worst thing in the world to be the best thing in the world, then surely He is at work in the worst thing in your world for your good and His glory.

All of this makes you wonder - if God uses Satan's attacks for our good and His glory, then why doesn't Satan just quit? And Revelations Chapter 12 and verse 12 provides an answer. It says: ***"Woe to you O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath because he knows his time is short."*** Satan knows he can't win, and he is just trying to do as much damage as he can while he can. Satan knows that God wins; let your suffering show that you know it too.

Remember: *'Our adversary is powerful, but limited; and through Satan's attacks, God wins for our good and His glory.'*

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.