

# Impress God By Loving God

Job 1:21



Good Hope  
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

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**Focal: Read Together** Job 1:21 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

**Opening & Illustration Danny McAskil Clip** What impresses you?

I was watching a clip by cyclist Danny MacAskil called “**Way Back Home**”. Danny is an expert bicyclist and a professional rider. If you've ever seen the clip on *Youtube* or *Facebook* you've been fascinated by it. He takes his bicycle to places and rides in areas that you just know is impossible. He seems to defy gravity! That impresses me.

I was reading an article the other day about the **Sears Tower in Chicago**. To entertain visitors they have installed four *glass box viewing platforms* that stick out of the building 103 floors up – around 1353 feet in the air. You step out into these glass boxes – with glass floors that are 1 ½ inches thick – and they say its like floating in air. It impresses me that anyone would trust such a thing and step out on it (I'm a little afraid of heights). It also impresses me that we make buildings that tall, and taller still.

I'm impressed with the space-born **Hubble telescope**. I'm also impressed with **cell phones** (I remember the days when there were pay phones you had to put a dime in ever so often to make a call). Though it's old hat to the younger generation, I'm impressed with **WIFI** and how I can watch television from the internet with services like

VUDU<sup>®</sup> and Netflix<sup>®</sup> - streaming from the Internet – through my Blu Ray Player. Smart Phones fascinate me. Maybe I'm easily impressed, but these are just a few of the things that impress me.

But what impresses God?

Our feats of skill don't impress God. Our God rose from the grave. He stood before our forefathers many years ago and told them – and us – **“go and tell others about Me at home. Step outside your comfort zone! Tell all people about Me”** (see Acts 1:8). Having said that the Lord Jesus **ascended to Heaven**. We might be impressed by Olympic “Ironmen” or skilled bikers, but that's nothing compared to what the Lord can do. He could levitate! Beat that.

Jesus Christ ascended - went up – into Heaven. He can levitate a bicycle anywhere He wants to go. He made the earth, the planets, the stars. There are over 100 billion galaxies with uncounted stars in all of them, and the Lord made them all.

Our *big buildings* don't impress God. I don't want to denigrate this facility. It's a nice facility, a wonderful place for us to come together as Christians. But our God **“made the world and everything that is in it. He is Lord of Heaven and earth and does not live in buildings built by human hands”** (Acts 17:24). Some people call this place “God's House”. It is a very small God that would live in this tiny place! The Bible tells us that **“God is everywhere – in Him we live and move and have our being”** (Acts 17:28). He is here – but He

is also on the other side of the earth with our Chinese Christian brethren. He is on every planet of our Solar System.

If you were to consider the Sun to be the size of an orange and keep everything at this scale, the earth would be no larger than *a grain of sand*. Would *you* notice a building built on a portion of a grain of sand? The Bible says that this immense space that we cannot see to the end of nor can we truly grasp its size was made by God as if it were nothing. The Bible says **“He stretches the heavens out like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in”** (Isaiah 40:22). No, God is not impressed by our skyscrapers, nor by our buildings.

God is not impressed by our technology. Our cell phone signals may cover cities, and our WIFI signals may put the internet on millions of computers, but God is everywhere. King David said **“Where can I run where You are not, O God? You are in the heavens. You are under the earth. I can run to the east or the west, but You are there, paying attention to me and meeting my needs”** (Psalm 139:7-10). No, God is not impressed with that.

God is impressed when we as His creatures love Him. That's what impresses God.

How do I know this? Because the Book of Job tells me that. Job was a man who lived a long time ago. He was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Job was a believer like a believer ought to be. He loved the Lord and *it showed*, it made a difference in his life.

**Illustrate** How do you love the Lord? A somewhat plain young lady approached a wealthy and handsome man. She said, "Oh, how I love your things! When I look into the depth of your portfolio, I feel my heart melt. I want to marry you so I can inherit your house, your gardens, and your swimming pool. Once we marry, I won't really pay you much mind unless I need something. Will you marry me?" That's how many people approach God. They come to Him because they want Heaven, but not God. They study His Bible, but don't love Him. They want the riches they hope He will provide, but not God. They don't want a relationship with God, but think that God is satisfied by religion.

**1** The beginning of genuine faith is not *religion*, but a loving *relationship* with God.

Do you realize that the word “religion” is only in the Bible seven times, and of these seven times it's only used one time in a positive manner?

Religion doesn't save you – it never has and never will. What saves you is when you realize that God loves you and is calling you to walk with Him in love through Christ. Job loved the Lord. The Scripture says that Job was

**Context** Job 1:1 (HCSB) ... a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned away from evil.

**Illustrate** The text says “Job feared God”. This

doesn't mean that he quivered and quaked every time he thought about God. Not at all! Every man and woman remembers and can look back on a time when we dated someone that we loved. When I got ready for a date I brushed my teeth, combed my hair, put on my best clothes. I wanted to look and be on my best behavior if I wanted the relationship to go forward. Young ladies put on the best clothes and ask their friends, “Does this make me look fat?” You want to look good. Married 33 years – going on 34 years - I love my wife and fear hurting her. True love fears hurting the one it loves.

**a** Job feared the Lord. He loved God, and made it a habit to pursue God by doing good and by turning away from evil. The Lord Jesus asked those who followed Him:

John 14:15 (HCSB) If you love Me, you will keep My commands. 23 ... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Job loved the Lord. When Satan came sauntering into God's Throne Room the Lord looked at him and said,

**Context** Job 1:8 (HCSB) ... Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil.

God is saying “Job loves Me! Look at this man – he tries to please Me, turning away from evil and doing good.” God is impressed when we love Him like Job,

with all our hearts.

**b** Job avoided *presumptuous sin*. What is

*presumptuous sin*? Let's say I come to your house to visit for the first time. As soon as I come in the door I ask "Where is your kitchen?" You tell me, and I walk into the kitchen, pull a glass out of a cabinet, go to the refrigerator, and without a word help myself. I pull down a few plates and start making myself a meal. You watch for a minute then say "What ARE you doing?" You get offended because I *presumed myself* on you. I assumed since it was fine for me to do it at home, it was fine for me to do it in your house without so much as a *by your leave*.

We often *presume* on God, putting ourselves first rather than God. We make statements like "I can't believe in a God Who \_\_\_\_\_", telling others – and God – that unless He measures up to OUR standards we just won't love Him!

It took me a long time to realize that God sets the standards. I'm not God – He is! I must not presume on God, for to do so is to do foolishly. Job avoided presuming on God's love. The Bible tells us ...

**Context** Job 1:4-5 <sup>(HCSB)</sup> His sons used to take turns having banquets at their homes. They would send an invitation to their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 Whenever a round of banqueting was over, Job would send for his children and purify them, rising early in the morning to offer burnt offerings

for all of them. For Job thought: Perhaps my children have sinned, having cursed God in their hearts. This was Job's regular practice.

that every time his children would have a banquet Job would err on the side of loving God. He would **send for his children and purify them, offering sacrifices for them**. Job prayed for his children and lifted them up. He also held his children accountable.

As long as these children lived in Job's house and used his resources he demanded that they obey his rule - and his rule was to love the Lord.

The great preacher C.H. Spurgeon said:

"... I detest everything that in the least ... leads people to {brag} about being secure in Christ while they are living in sin. We cannot be saved by or for our good works; neither can we be saved without good works. Christ will never save any of His people in their sins; He saves His people from their sins."

**2** Job showed his love for the Lord by putting Him first in his life. When God bragged on Job Satan replied:

**Context** Job 1:9-11 <sup>(HCSB)</sup> .... Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Haven't You placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will

surely curse You to Your face.

What Satan was saying was “**God, Job doesn't love YOU, he loves the THINGS You give him.**” But the Lord knew Job's heart, and told the Devil ...

**Context Job 1:12** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> ... Very well .... everything he owns is in your power. However, you must not lay a hand on Job himself. ...

God had been watching Job and walking with Job for many years, and He knew that Job loved HIM and not just the things that God could give him.

**a** As Job lived his life he made it a habit to put God before his things. Job had a lot of stuff. The Bible says

**Context Job 1:3** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> His estate included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very large number of servants. Job was the greatest man among all the people of the east.

Job was the greatest man among *all the people* of the east. Job was the Donald Trump or the Bill Gates of his day. He had it all. But as soon as God gave Satan permission to take Job's stuff, his empire was quickly scattered.

Three messengers came to Job in rapid succession. In verse 14 he lost his oxen and his donkeys, along with all those servants. In verse 16 a lightening storm from Heaven burned up the sheep and the shepherds. In

verse 17 three bands of Chaldeans stole all his camels. Job was now servantless and penniless. He had nothing. But this wasn't the last straw. A fourth messenger comes and says:

**Context Job 1:18-19** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> He was still speaking when another messenger came and reported: Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. 19 Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people so that they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you!

He lost it all. His possessions. His servants. His children. How did Job respond? Did he look up to Heaven and curse God? The Bible says:

**Context Job 1:20** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped

Job worshiped the Lord. He poured out his heart to Him. Job had made giving to God a habit. He put God first.

Worship your STUFF and one day that god will be gone. Worship God for His love will outlast your STUFF!

**b** A habit of loving the Lord above all else will keep you whole when your world falls apart. Job lost his family, his riches, everything was taken away. Did he despair? No, but he said ...

**Focal** Job 1:21 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

**Illustrate** We all have nothing when we start in this life. We come from our mothers naked and crying. As Sherry and I sat watching our grandchild Micah eat while our children visited I was struck by something. Micah was only 8 months old at the time, and had just recently started eating a little solid food. His momma and daddy - our children - were trying to teach him how to feed himself. He's figured out how to hold a bottle and drink, but at this stage he hasn't quite grasped the concept of getting the food *into* his mouth, nor how to hold it there while he chews it. **Micah picks up a little piece of food. He rubs it all over his face looking for his mouth. Finally he gets it in his mouth and starts to chew, but slobber and bits of food slither down his chin. His daddy - smiling and loving him - says "That's gross, boy. Close your mouth!" Reaching out and every so gently daddy takes the piece of half chewed food and - with his finger - picks this nasty looking thing up and gently puts it back in his son's mouth.**

Have you ever considered that God does the same thing with us? We come naked into this world, and we leave this world empty handed. In between birth and death we accumulate stuff, we lose stuff, we make money, we lose money.

Things are fine to have, but the only constant blessing is that God loves us and walks with us.

When the bad times hit Job his response was,

**"Everything I have is from God. My life is from God, my death is determined by God. This is a God thing and I will trust Him no matter what may come".**

Please don't let your things become your god. Give! Make it a habit to give freely as God gives. Live your lives in love with the Lord. When you do, then you'll

**Romans 8:28 <sup>(HCSB)</sup> .... know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.**

**3** Job had more than a "watered down" faith. A "watered down" faith will only drown you when the seas of trouble rise around you.

**Illustrate** One of the first things I learned in school is the *composition of water*. A lot of things didn't stick, but for some reason H<sup>2</sup>O stayed with me. The formula for water - H<sup>2</sup>O – tells us that water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Now I believe that water is H<sup>2</sup>O. I don't doubt it one little bit. But has my faith in H<sup>2</sup>O made any difference in my life? Not really. I drank water before I knew its formula, and drank water after I knew its formula. But I can't say that I fell in love with water. I need it. I use it. But there are times I'd rather have something mixed into my water, like coffee, tea, or some

soft drink flavoring. **I'm not in love with water, though I believe it is H2O.** There was a time in my life when I believed in God like I believe in water. I heard about God in Sunday School. I listened to the preacher speak about God. Intellectually I believed in God like I believe water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. It made no difference in my life.

That type of faith will do you no good when the bad stuff comes. We all need a faith stronger than that which we have in water.

The faith that overcomes the world and defeats Satan is the faith that falls in love with God. Job had more than a watered down faith. He loved the Lord.

**a** We love the Lord because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) and keeps on reaching out to us in love. **There was a time in my life that I didn't know I was a sinner.** I went to Church and heard about sinners, but that was always some else. It was never me. I heard that the Lord Jesus said:

**Luke 5:31-32 (KJV) .... They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Like many people I *intellectualized sin*. I thought, **"I'm a good person. I've not really hurt anybody but myself. I'm not like those really bad sinners because I go to Church."** Then one day God whispered to my heart through His Word. He said to me **"You're so**

**proud, but everything you do apart from Me is wicked"** (see Proverbs 21:4).

We are all by nature sinners, separated from God by the works of our hands and the attitude of our hearts. And yet God in love reaches out to us.

**b** God has proved His love for us by first of all giving us physical life, and by then reaching out to us in order to give us eternal life. There was a time when we had little to no concern for God, and yet He loved us. The Bible tells us:

**John 3:16-17 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

The Lord Jesus Christ came from Heaven to this earth for us. He died for us. He rose again from the grave for us. God has proven His love for us by giving Himself to us. The Scripture tells us that,

**"for the joy that lay before Jesus He endured the Cross and despised the shame" (Hebrews 12:2).**

What was **"the joy that lay before Him"**?

He is reaching out to you in love. The Lord wants you - not in a religious way - but in a relational way. He wants

you to fall in love with Him, just as He loves you. Job kept on loving the Lord no matter how bad things got. Why? Because Job knew what Paul knew, that

**Romans 8:28** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.**

There is no coincidence. Everything has a purpose. The good, the bad, no matter what comes our way is governed by the Lord Who loves us. He has a purpose for your life and mine. His purpose transcends this building, this gathering, the things you own. God wants you to love Him as He loves you. He wants you to lay your life down for Him as He has laid His life down for you. When you sing in Church, is it mechanical, or are you singing to the Lord Who saved you? When you come to Church, do you do so because *it's expected* or because you love the Lord?

Just as it is with the Book of Job, our lives have a start and an end. Job's life was blessed at the beginning and blessed at the end, though in the middle he had some mighty dark days. What kept the blessing going even during the bad times? He loved the Lord!

He loved the Lord.

Grow in your love of God by doing good and doing what He says. Read His Word. Be the Good Samaritan. Ask yourselves, "What will please the Lord I love?" and then do it. Impress God by loving God, for, dear ones, He certainly loves you!



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Acts 17:24; Acts 17:28; Isaiah 40:22; Psalm 139:7-10

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\_\_\_\_\_

Do you realize that the word “religion” is **only in the Bible seven times, and of these seven times it's only used one time in a positive manner?**

Job 1:1; John 14:15, 23; Job 1:8;

**a** Job feared the Lord. He loved God, and made it a habit to pursue God by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**b** Job avoided *presumptuous sin*. What is *presumptuous sin*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Job 1:4-5

**2** Job showed his love for the Lord by putting Him \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Job 1:9-11;  
Job 1:12

**a** As Job lived his life he made it a habit \_\_\_\_\_

Job 1:3; Job 1:18-19; Job 1:20

Worship your STUFF and one day that god will be gone. Worship God for His love will outlast your STUFF!

**b** A habit of loving the Lord above all else will keep you \_\_\_\_\_  
Job 1:21; Romans 8:28

**3** Job had more than a \_\_\_\_\_

**a** We love the Lord because \_\_\_\_\_  
1 John 4:19; Luke 5:31-32; Proverbs 21:4

**b** God has proved His love for us by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 3:16-17; Hebrews 12:2; Romans 8:28

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