



March 2011

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?” - Job 30:25

What does it mean to be great in the eyes of God?

In the verse above, Job reveals the heart of true greatness—a person who is deeply concerned about those in trouble and those in need. It’s not a passing kind of concern, but a heartfelt compassion for people who are facing trouble, trial, hardship, and overwhelming need. And Job’s compassion was not only for those in his own group. There were no color barriers or cultural divides in his concern for those in need. It didn’t matter if the person was a prominent leader or a farm hand; Job’s compassion reached out to all.

God said of Job that he was blameless (mature), upright (righteous), feared (respected) God, and shunned (stayed away from) Evil (Job 1:2).

The Bible says that Job “was the greatest man among all the people of the East” (Job 1:3).

Often we define greatness with wealth, success, power, fame, talent, status, position, popularity, or beauty. We look at the outward appearances and positions of people and we call them “great.” Yet so often, on the inside, these same people are falling apart. They are on their fifth marriage; they are hooked on drugs; they are devoid of godliness; and they are miserable and unhappy. But because they are famous, wealthy, successful, powerful, or beautiful, we think they are “great.”

But in God’s eyes, none of these outward characteristics defines greatness. In fact, the Bible tells us that what we often consider great or wise is viewed by God as “foolishness.”

So what defines REAL greatness?

If you want to be great in God’s eyes, you need character. Your character is who you are in the dark—when no one is watching. Your character is what governs your life. Job’s character was blameless before God. He had integrity, he feared and followed God, and he had compassion on others.

What makes you great?

- **A humble heart**

When you are humble, you are concerned about other people. The world does not revolve around your needs, but around the needs of others. Greatness in God’s eyes is a humble person.

- **A servant’s heart**

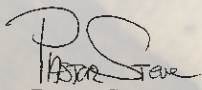
When you have a servant’s heart, you seek to help people. You not only have the capacity to see the need, but also the capacity to do something about the need. Greatness in God’s eyes comes from serving others.

- **A committed life**

When you are committed to God, you will continue following him in the good and the bad. Your outward circumstances do not disturb your commitment to God. Fellowship, prayer, and walking with the Lord are priorities in your life. Greatness in God’s eyes comes from a committed life to Him.

Are you striving to be great before people or before God? When you look at your life, and when you strip away the outward image, do you measure up to God’s definition of greatness? As believers, may we all understand the true definition of greatness and pursue it.

In Christ,



Pastor Steve