

## **‘Waiting Our Turn to Bat’**

A man approached a Little League baseball game one afternoon while strolling through a park.

He stopped and asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, “Eighteen to nothing – we’re behind.”

“My goodness,” said the spectator, “I’ll bet you’re discouraged.”

“Why should I be discouraged?” replied the little boy. “We haven’t even gotten up to bat yet!”

What a difference an optimistic attitude makes!

As Christians, we have the ultimate comfort that we are blessed with the ultimate win – eternal life in heaven with God. But until then, how are we supposed to face the discouragements of this world – such as our deteriorating physical health, the deteriorating health of family or friends, even the death of loved ones, or challenges in the workplace (internal or external), disappointments by loved ones or associates, accidents of one kind or another, rising costs that hit our pocketbooks, and the list goes on?

Our tragedies and setbacks are disturbing, disappointing and frustrating, but they pale in comparison to what Job, the character in the Old Testament, experienced.

He is presented as a good and prosperous family man who is beset by Satan, with God’s permission, with horrendous disasters that take away all that he holds dear, including his offspring, his health and his property. But Job is restored to an even better condition than his former wealthy state. The Lord gave him twice as much as he had before. He is blessed to have seven sons and three daughters, who were said to be the most beautiful women in the land.

He reproaches his friends, calling them “miserable comforters,” and says, “But my mouth would encourage you, comfort from my lips would bring you relief” (Job 16:5 NIV).

God is our great encourager. He reminds us that with His help, anything is possible. It is a matter of perspective that determines the productivity of our actions.

Childlike faith is the way to success in this world. Do you believe that the Lord will be faithful to provide for your needs and your desires?

He is waiting to hear and see your enthusiasm for life. He is waiting to bless a childlike faith.

– Beecher Hunter