

## THREADS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, LESSON 13: FAITHFULNESS

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.”  
(Job 19:25, ESV)

**H**ENRIK STENSON WAS HARDLY THE FIRST PLAYER to have overcome a deep drop in his world rankings only to forge a remarkable return. But the 2013 FedExCup and Race to Dubai champion had plummeted into mediocrity and uncertainty after winning the Players Championship in 2009. That victory pushed Stenson to fourth in the world. It also sent him off an unforeseen precipice.

Stenson’s low actually began in the spring ahead of his big win at TPC Sawgrass. A large portion of his personal wealth was tied up in investments with Stanford Financial; when it was discovered that the company had moved money through an intricate Ponzi scheme, investors like Stenson found that their savings were gone. Then came the golf slump, and by the beginning of 2012 Stenson found himself at 230th in the world.

We might do well to in some ways compare Stenson with Job, that old patriarch of Scripture who lost his home, his holdings, even his family but for his wife. And when she told him to “curse God and die,” he had essentially lost her as well.

From the place of material blessing, Job fell quite literally into the dirt. He scraped the boils from his body and clung to the slightest of hopes.

When this is our lot, we might wish for friends to come to our aid. More likely, as in the case of Job, they come as advisors: *do this, do that, you’ll get through it*. They mean well, but they cannot persevere for you. You must open your eyes to God yourself.

Henrik Stenson gives no indication of biblical faith, but his insight for getting past the worst of times is meaningful. After his win at the Tour Championship to secure the FedExCup, Stenson said, “There comes a point when you say ‘enough is enough’ and then you start working on the long-term stuff rather than chasing your tail trying to find something that should work for this week or next week.”

Here is perseverance: an undying vision for what can be, even if it’s far in the future. Job never lost sight of the nature of God. “In the end, my Redeemer will stand,” he told his friends. And in attending to that standing God, Job was able to stand each day, one day after another, until his enduring faith was rewarded.

**Opening questions** What is the toughest season in life you have ever endured? How did you emerge from it? What part did God play in your return from difficulty?

**READING** 1 Timothy 4:9-16; Ephesians 6:10-18

**Faithfulness and discipline**  
In Paul’s instruction to Timothy, what point of doctrine is carried through from verse 10?

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What exercises of faith did Paul commend to Timothy?

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In verses 15-16, what results did Paul say would come from such persevering faith?

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**Tools to stand**  
The idea of *standing*, which is repeated throughout the Ephesians 6 passage, means to “make firm, fix, establish.” How do the elements of the armor of God promote such a determined faithfulness?

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2014 Links Players International. A 5-minute video accompanies today’s study at [http://youtu.be/GUWrt\\_iuzOI](http://youtu.be/GUWrt_iuzOI)