

James 5:11

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

We have all seen those nature shows with the fish swimming up stream. It seems odd that they would do this as they swim as hard as they can, even jumping out of the water to make it up a small waterfall. Talk about persevering to the end, these fish do just that, not letting anything stop them from getting to their destination.

But I will share something that sounds a little stupid, but very profound.
Dead fish don't swim up stream.

I told you it sounded crazy, but think about it. We as Christians should be just like these live fish pushing forward till we reach our destination, which is heaven. No matter how hard it may seem or what obstacles that may get in our way. But to many times we act more like dead fish and just give up when a problem comes up saying that being a Christian is just too hard. And just like dead fish, we just lay there in the water going with the flow of the world.

Think about Job, who is mentioned in today's verse. Things were going great for him, and then all of a sudden, one obstacle after another came his way. But these obstacles didn't stop him. He didn't give up and throw in the towel even though his own wife told him to.

† **Job 2:9** *Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"*

I know this may sound harsh, but Job's wife had become a dead fish and she wanted Job to just lay there doing nothing and give up, just like she did. But Job didn't and he even told her so.

† **Job 2:10a** *But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks."*

So what are you, a dead fish laying there giving up, or a live fish swimming against the current and making it through the obstacles that Satan throws your way?

One more thing to think about. Dead fish are only good in a frying pan. But the live fish will swim upstream to produce more fish.

† **Mark 16:20** *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*