



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Fortitude (a one-word summary of Job)**

**September 2020**

The series continues. The challenge -- summarize the main message of each book of the Bible in a single word, and choose a word that provides encouragement and guidance for Christians in today's world. (The generally accepted chronology of the Old Testament suggests that Job is one of the earlier books.)

Here's a well-known phrase: the patience of Job. The phrase is based on an older translation of James 5:11, "you have heard of patience of Job." While patience is a possible translation of the Greek word *hupomeno*, the basic meaning of the word suggests several others possibilities, as reflected in more recent translations of the Bible – endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, and perseverance.

I choose the word fortitude. I like the word. I remember a high school coach who constantly urged us boys to develop "intestinal fortitude." The reference is not anatomical. There is a strength that comes from deep within that reflects our heart, our values, our desires, and our commitments.

You have heard of the fortitude of Job! How does that strike you? With friends like Job's, who needs enemies? In the midst of incredible loss, discouragement from his wife, Satan's assaults, his friends' lack of understanding, and no clear answer from God, Job stood firm.

What we need in our lives is spiritual fortitude. Spiritual fortitude is unlike that the world knows. This fortitude is based in a different view of the world, a different understanding of what really matters. Spiritual fortitude looks beyond the present and perseveres. Spiritual fortitude focuses on steadfastness.

Word Of the Week! God calls us to be people of fortitude in the midst of afflictions and trials. Given the situation of the world right now, there are few messages in Scripture that are more needed!