

## I've NEVER lost a Thing I've Owned

The year was 1885. Inventor Thomas Edison stood helplessly by as he watched his factory burn. Years of hard work and costly experiments went up in flames. It is reported that he called for his wife and son, exclaiming that they would never see anything like this again. While his family was wrought with emotions he said for those he loved, "There go all our mistakes. Now we can start over afresh!" A few weeks later he began rebuilding the plant, and shortly thereafter followed the invention of the phonograph!

Each of us respond differently to hardship. Some are emotionally drained, others experience hostility or anger, and most are saddened or depressed to say the least. Although these may be natural responses, they are not always healthy. Looking for the good in things gone bad is a daunting task. We are often overwhelmed with the desire to lash out against others and God, hoping perhaps to gain some feeling of release. What we fail to realize is that most losses allow us a certain degree of release. We have formed great dependencies upon the physical blessings of this life, satisfying our every need. Yet, those dependencies often replace the necessity for God in our lives.

Viewed in proper perspective one understands our blessings from The Almighty are to be used for The Almighty. Job was no stranger to physical blessings, the Lord bestowed them upon him beyond comparison. Job also knew the pain of loss perhaps beyond our comprehension as well. Yet in his suffering he did not loose sight of the primary focus of life, and he knew that material gain never truly belonged to him.

In the pit of his despair the Bible records these words:

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he **fell to the ground and worshiped**. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.**" **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.** NASU*

Job 1:20-22

What physical blessings have I lost in my lifetime that were mine to begin with? In reality, I've never lost a thing I owned! I must learn to endure hardship while maintaining a steadfast faithfulness. On a final note, even our health is a gift from God, and some great day that will be gone as well. On that day we will watch as all of our mistakes have vanished and we will start afresh with Him eternally. A Christian who never experiences loss can never fully appreciate gain. Think about it.

In Him, Byron Barrientez