

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JAMES 1:12-15

Lesson 5

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review James 1:5-11. What changes are you experiencing in the handling of your trials in response to this passage?
2. Mark the paragraph division in this week's study, James 1:12-15. Give it a short title.
3. James 1:13-15 will introduce us to *temptations* of a different kind. These will not be the trials from the *outside* that *test our faith* but those that come from *within* that *tempt us to sin*. Consider Psalm 119:133 in relationship to the lesson. Choose a few synonyms for the word *order*.
 - a. Write this verse in your own words as your prayer.

*Establish my steps and
direct them by (means of) Your Word;
let no sin rule over me.*

Psalm 119:133 rcv

SECOND DAY: Read James 1:12

1. Some Bible scholars believe James 1:12 concludes the exhortation on *temptations* which began in James 1:2. Others believe it begins a new paragraph. Either way this beatitude contains a powerful incentive for perseverance and a glorious promise for those who *love Him*. This scripture should be calligraphed and framed. It should be engraved on our hearts and written on our souls. Write it phrase by phrase here:

- a. Compare the following version of James 1:12 with the KJV. Observe the underlined words. Find the corresponding words in the KJV and write them above the underlined words:

*Blessed, is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation.
for when he has stood the test and been approved he will receive
the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him.*

- (1.) What is this verse saying to you?
2. Concentrate on the word *blessed* (KJV). Absorb the full impact of that word. We often equate *blessed* with *happy*. *Happiness is transient; blessedness is eternal. Blessedness has a divine element in it.* Explain in your own words the difference between *blessed* and *happy*.
3. Who does James 1:12a point to as *blessed*?
- a. Are we forced to endure? Why or why not?
- b. What does the word *endureth* signify?
4. The key to this *endurance* or *perseverance* is found in the last phrase of James 1:12c. Print it here by filling in the blank: *to them that _____ Him.*
- a. How does your love for the Lord motivate you to endure temptation (trial)?
5. To the one who *endures* trials and testings out of love for the Lord, there is joy or blessedness *here* as well as *hereafter*. *For when he is tried* (Greek: *dokimos genomenos* - the test of gold, or silver); *is approved* or has *passed the test* (NEB), he will emerge *strong* in character. See this from James 1:4b. Knowing that *endurance in trial* is growing you up, making you strong in character, and more like Jesus, how are you inspired to appreciate being *inaugurated into the company of the blessed* (James 1:12a)?
- a. Think for a moment about this phrase *the company of the blessed*. What is it that bonds you together?
- b. Ore must be tested by fire and acid to prove whether or not it is a genuine metal. How does knowing our faith is *put to the acid test* help you in time of trial?

c. What do you learn about *enduring* from the following verses:

- (1.) II Timothy 2:3
- (2.) Hebrews 11:(24-27a)27b
- (3.) Hebrews 12:2
- (4.) James 5:(10)11a

d. Consider the word *endureth* in the context of I Corinthians 13:4-7. Comment on this.

Optional: Share additional *blessings* that result *now* from *enduring temptation* (trial).

*O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer,
Pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness,
Stamp Thine own image
Deep on my heart.*

Thomas Chisholm

THIRD DAY: Read James 1:12

1. What is promised in this verse to anyone who *loves Him* and is faithful?
2. The *crown of life* is symbolically used here for eternal life with our Lord forever. In James' time at the Grecian games *crowns*, literally garlands and wreaths, were awarded to those who were the victors in any of the athletic events. A crown of laurel leaves, of ivy, or perhaps parsley was put on the winner's head. It was a perishable crown. Think of the *crown of life* in the light of Revelation 2:(8-10b)10c. Print the last two phrases of this verse here. Selah.
 - a. What encouragement does this promise give you?
3. *The crown here is not a prize as it is in I Corinthians 9:25 nor an ornament of royalty but a reward showing the approval of the Giver.* How does Matthew 25:21 substantiate this?
 - a. Think of *faithful servant* in the light of James 1:12. What do you see?
4. In what way might *endurance in trial* be related to Luke 9:23?

Challenge: *No cross, no crown* is an oft quoted expression. We know salvation is a gift of God, not of works. What might the *crown* represent in the light of Matthew 25:21?

*The consecrated cross I'll bear
Till death shall set me free.
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there's a crown for me.*

Thomas Shepherd

FOURTH DAY: Read James 1:13-15

1. James now seems to make an abrupt shift from the blessing of endurance to another source of *temptation* or *testing*. In James 1:2 the *temptations* dealt with refer to trials as testings that come from external sources. In verses 13-15 we encounter another source of temptation—that which comes from within us. Read this paragraph carefully. Who might people be apt to blame when they are *tempted*? How does James 1:13 emphatically correct this? Write your answer phrase by phrase.

- a. Why should we never blame God for our personal failures? See Psalm 145:17.

(1.) Define *holy* as it pertains to God.

- b. How does Job 1:22 set an example for us?

2. Blaming others for our sins and failures is very popular in our culture. We don't want to take responsibility for our own moral failure. Blaming began in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:11-13). According to James 1:14 how are we *tempted*?

- a. Carefully observe the words *drawn away* and *enticed* from the following alarming viewpoint. (*Lust* in these verses refers to *evil desire*):

drawn away (Greek: *exelkomai*) to drag off

enticed (Greek: *deleazo*) the attraction of bait for a hungry animal

Define the word *lured*, a synonym for *enticed*, in conjunction with *drawn away* in reference to the magnetism of evil which can be produced by *lust*.

(1.) List a few antonyms for the word *lure*.

3. Examining *lust* from this perspective how are you moved to nip it in the bud?

*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;
Each victory will help you, another to win.*

selected

FIFTH DAY: Read James 1:15

1. Record the sequence and final consequence of yielding to *lust* from James 1:15:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Challenge: Parallel this sequence of James 1:15 with the progression of Eve's sin. Use scriptures to support your answer.

2. How does this scripture depict a birth?

3. *Death* means separation from God. How does this *death* affect the Christian's fellowship with God?

a. What is the path to restoration? Use scriptures to support your answer.

4. Contrast the final result of the one succumbing to lust with the faithful one of James 1:12.

a. How does this urge you to choose God's way?

b. Every temptation requires a decision on our part. Will we choose to walk God's way or our own? The choice is ours but the consequences are not. Consider this in the light of Galatians 6:7-9. Selah Write verse 8 here.

(1.) How is this a deterrent to James 1:14,15 behavior?

SIXTH DAY: Review James 1:12-15

1. What have you learned from James 1:12 that presses you closer to *endurance*?

2. In what specific way has James 1:13-15 spoken to you?
 - a. How do the following verses encourage a believer to not be *drawn away* or *enticed* by *lust*?
 - (1.) Romans 8:13
 - (2.) I Corinthians 10:13
 - (3.) II Peter 2:9a
3. If a Christian were blaming the Lord for her temptation to sin, what would you want to share with her?
4. How do you avoid the *temptation* of James 1:14? Be practical and specific.
 - a. What is the danger of compromise?
5. Review James 1:12-15. Read Joshua 24:15 in relationship to this week's lesson. Think seriously about your choices. What is your preeminent desire in response to James 1:12-15?

*Only to be what He wants me to be
Every moment of every day
Yielded completely to Jesus alone
Every step of the pilgrim way
Just to be clay in the Potter's hand
Willing to do what His Word commands.*