

## Trials and Temptations

James 1:12 – 16

### A. Trials in a believer's life are actual blessings.

1. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation..." - One of the hardest things for the believer to adjust to is this one.
2. There are two types of trials (a.) trials to test you and (b.) trials to correct you.
  - a. **Job 5:17** "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:"
  - b. **Psalms 94:12** "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;"
  - c. **Psalms 119:67** "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."
  - d. **Hebrews 6:13 - 15** "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, (14.) Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. (15.) And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."
3. The decision for the believer is that when trials or afflictions come, are we going to flee to the Lord or are we going to rebel for them.
4. Stumbling in the time of trials could pull us from truth, it could pull us from the church, and it could pull us from God. A failure to adhere to the facts of trial can turn a trial into a temptation for Satan.

### B. The rewards are eternal blessings.

1. For those who endure the blessings are plentiful; maybe not here but in eternity they will be. "...for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life..." v. 12
2. The word "crown" means - a chaplet; as a badge of royalty - **2 Timothy 4:8** "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me

only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

3. The Lord speaks to His elders or Under-Sheppard’s. **1 Peter 5:4** “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”
4. He speaks to the churches. **Revelation 2:8 - 11** "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; (9.) I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. (10.) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.** (11.) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."
  - a. **John 10:16** “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”
  - b. **Genesis 17:4 - 5** "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee."
  - c. **Romans 11:16 - 17** "For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. (17) And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; (23) And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again."
5. These could be actual crowns that we will ware. **Revelation 4:4** “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had

on their heads crowns of gold.”

C. Both trials and rewards are promised from God. V.12 “...which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

1. **Matthew 5:10** "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
2. There is nothing as wonderful as a promise from God. God has made many promises and all them have been fulfilled or will soon.
3. **Matthew 19:28 - 30** "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29.) And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. (30.) But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."

D. Be assured that while trials come from God temptations do not. Verse 13 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”

E. If the believer surrenders to temptation he will be drawn in by his own lust. Verse 14 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”

F. The Lords final warning to the believer about temptation.

G.