

James 1:12-18 – ESV Version

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial (kjb – endureth temptation), for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire (kjb lust) when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown (kjb–when sin is finished) brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

James 1:12-18 ESV

Our Perseverance - James Chapter 1 Verse 12-18

So, *make no mistake!* Sin is deadly, but God is good. And God has a **Divine Purpose** for his creation, including us. Nevertheless, in this life we face troubles without and temptations within. **Pressure** on the outside and **Pressure** on the inside.

But whether without or within, James' admonition is the same: persevere, hold fast, stand firm, resist!

Every believer is confronted with this choice, whether to give play to their sinful desires or stand firm against them. But James also has a final—and surprising—word of wisdom for us. Standing fast is not a matter of **Will-Power** or gritted teeth determination. Just as the root of sin is found in **Desire** rather than the will, so the **Secret of Perseverance** is found in our desire, in this case, in our desire and love for God.

James reiterates the advice he gave earlier, encouraging his hearers that those who do stand firm will be blessed, and indeed, will receive "the crown of life."

If desire leads to sin which gives birth to death, **Testing** met with perseverance leads to life. In this verse, the crown of life is the final eschatological **Victory**, the hope of eternal life in the **Kingdom** of God.

Blessed, not only in time but in eternity. Blessed not only as individuals, but as the community of God's kingdom in the midst of a renewed creation.

This blessing is given, according to James, "to those who love God." In the final analysis, the Christian life is about who or what we will love. Will we **Love God**, or will we turn our love inward and **Love ourselves**? God calls us to a higher love, to love God with all our heart and soul and strength, and to **love our neighbor** as ourselves.

What does it mean to love God? Love for God involves keeping his commandments (John 14:15). It means to keep his word in our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). It means to look to God, to hope in God, to approach God in prayer, and to trust in God.

Finally, it means to rejoice in God and find our boasting, joy and life in him. The Christian life is neither a cynical quest for reward nor a fearful avoidance of hell. It is not simply a stoic endurance of affliction or a herculean withstanding of temptation.

It is a life of **joy** rather than gritted teeth, of **hope** rather than fear, of **faith** rather than despair, of **generosity** rather than selfishness, and **wholly, Holy supremely of love**.

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