



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

THE BLESSED MAN, Part 1 – JAMES 1: 12

COLORADO

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Can we endure through trials as James lays out in these verses in chapter one? Can we humble ourselves and seek God for wisdom when we are lacking as we endure? Are we going to God for answers or are we going to the world for answers? Can we give way and let God have His way in our lives, trusting in His sovereignty? As we go through trials and tests, can we rejoice, submit to what God is doing in our lives, allow God to mature us in our faith, and depend and boast in the Lord alone? James encourages us to trust in the Lord, gain His wisdom to know how to persevere and give way to the Lord's work in our lives through the testing and if we do, we will be truly blessed!

I. THE BLESSED MAN - JAMES 1:12

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and let the rich man glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” James 1:2-12

A true and living faith is a faith that endures to maturity through trials and adversity. Proof that we love God is found in the manner in which we go through trials. In these verses we are challenged to endure to maturity. James begins this section by exhorting us to consider, to count it all joy when we face various trials in our lives. (James 1:2) That’s hard to swallow. But then James concludes this section by encouraging us with why we can count it all joy through adversity. The result of persevering through the trials of life results in true blessings, maturity and receiving the crown of life.

A. “BLESSED IS THE MAN”– JAMES 1:12A

“Blessed is the man...” James 1:12a

Does this verse sound familiar? It sounds similar to what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5:1-12 and Luke 6:20-26. There our Lord presented the beatitudes which describe the character of true faith. James is describing the character of true faith in these verses as well, using that same definition of “blessed is a man” with underlying similarities as he

writes to the dispersed and persecuted Jewish Christians. What does the word blessed really mean?

“blessed” Greek word “*makarios*,” means to be fully satisfied, indicates the state of the believer in Christ. He is indwelt by God because of Christ and as a result is fully satisfied. A blessed person is one whom God makes fully satisfied, not because of favorable circumstances, but because He indwells the believer through Christ. It is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world, his satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstances.

Often the word “blessed” is confused with “happy”, but let’s see how the two words are actually totally different.

“happy” Greek word “*hap*,” meaning favorable circumstances.

Happiness then is based solely on having favorable circumstances in life. If things go well, then we are happy, but if hard times come, we are not happy. Here James uses a much richer word to describe the believer, for a truly blessed man or woman is one whom God has made fully satisfied, *not* because of favorable circumstances, which come and go, but through any circumstance of life. As a believer, our satisfaction comes from God Who lives inside us. To be blessed is the equivalent of having God’s kingdom within our hearts. As a believer we are in Christ and Christ is in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit doesn’t come and go, but indwells our hearts continually. A blessed man or woman is one who is fully satisfied regardless of the circumstances of life because true satisfaction comes only from God.

The Apostle Paul echoed this thought when he wrote in Philippians 4:11-13, “Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

What brings true joy and lasting satisfaction is Christ alone no matter what is happening. True joy, true blessedness can never be contingent on our circumstances.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0107

Colorado

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When you think about it, what are we first tempted to do when we are in a trial? We focus on our circumstance and become discouraged. But when we keep our eyes on Christ, the trials we face are put in their place and we can persevere to maturity trusting that God has a purpose and a plan through it all. And we can rejoice, not because of the trial, but because of the result of the trial which will deepen and mature our faith in the Lord. James is saying that the man who goes through life consistently will be satisfied to the depth of his soul because of his personal relationship with the living and loving God. It is that man who is truly blessed.

B. "WHO PERSEVERES"— JAMES 1:12B

"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial..." James 1:12b

What man is blessed? The trial in and of itself is not a blessing. Only when we remain under the trial, endure and persevere through the trial, are we spiritually blessed. James uses a different word in this verse for enduring than he chose for verses 3 and 4 of this chapter. Even though it comes from the same Greek root word, James will place an added emphasis on perseverance with patient longsuffering.

"perseverance" Greek word **"hupomeno,"** from the same Greek root word as "hupomone" (endurance of James 1:3,4), being "hupo" meaning under and "mone" abiding, so abiding under. But "hupomeno" (perseverance of James 1:12) is "hupo" meaning under and "meno", remaining. The difference is in the longsuffering represented by perseverance as compared to endurance. Perseverance, "hupomeno", means remaining under, to endure or sustain a load of miseries, adversities, persecutions or trials, in faith and patience.

This verb is in the present tense which means a continuous action. We are to constantly and continually persevere through trials, remaining under the adversity with longsuffering in faith and patience. What man or woman is blessed? The one who perseveres under trial.

Life is full of everyday disappointments and testing that comes our way. And life is often full of deep trials and tribulations that pierce our hearts with pain. It will be this way until Christ returns. And when that pain is the deepest and we feel engulfed by the adversity we are struggling through, this becomes a testing and proving ground for our belief in God's sovereignty.

We find our joy not in the heat of the fiery ordeal that comes our way, but in the fact that the Refiner's fire is purposeful. It is a purifying fire that brings about pure silver and we can endure, we can persevere with longsuffering because we trust Him. We can rest in the sovereignty of God and know that God is in control, even if life seems out of control.

Paul wrote in Romans 8:18-25, *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us...For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."* As believers, we have a great hope! Not only will God use adversity to bring about maturity in our lives, but in His time, our suffering will come to an end. Our suffering is short whereas eternal life with Christ is forever. We wait eagerly, anticipating the *"redemption of our bodies"*. In the end, we win because of Christ!

The one who *"perseveres under trials"*, is one who has sustained trust, confidence and faith in God while remaining under the load of adversity. The result of this faithfulness is one whom God has made fully satisfied with an inner joy that comes from Him alone. Next week we will continue our study of James 1:12 and close with this poem from an unknown author.

Child of My love, fear not the unknown morrow,
Dread not the new demand life makes of thee;
Thine ignorance doth hold no cause for sorrow,
For what thou knowest not is known to Me.
Thou canst not see today the hidden meaning
Of My command, but thou the light shall gain.
Walk on in faith, upon My promise leaning,
And as thou goest, all shall be made plain.
One step thou seest; Then go forward boldly'
One step is far enough for faith to see.
Take that, and thy next duty shall be told thee,
For step by step thy God is leading Thee.
Stand not in fear, thine adversaries counting;
Dare every peril, save to disobey.
Thou shalt march on, each obstacle surmounting,
For I, the Strong, shall open up the way.
Therefore go gladly to the task assigned thee,
Having My promise; needing nothing more
Than just to know where'er the future find thee,
In all thy journeying – *I go before.*

Author Unknown