

Trials of the Poor and Rich; Resisting Temptation in Trials (James, pt. 2)

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1. Continuation of a study from back in May on “The Christian’s Response to Trials - James 1:1-8”
2. James continues the discussion of the Christian in trials in James 1:9-18 – trials of poverty and wealth and resisting temptation.
3. Addresses the first in **James 1:9-11**

Discussion:

I. TRIALS OF THE POOR AND THE RICH

- A. Whether we are poor or rich, we face various trials specific to our station in life (**Prov. 30:7-9**)
- B. If we are poor, we may be tempted to curse God
 1. **Prov. 30:9b**
 2. Consider Job’s wife when poverty struck – **Job. 2:9**
- C. If we are rich, we may be tempted to forget God
 1. **Prov. 30:9a**
 2. Look at Israel – **Deut. 6:10-12; 8:6-17; Hos. 13:4-6**
- D. A

II. THE PROPER RESPONSE TO POVERTY AND WEALTH

- A. To the “poor” brother – **James 1:9**
 1. Glory in your exaltation
 2. Though we may be from the lowly or humble ranks in this life, if we are servants of Christ, we have received great honor. – be rich in faith (c.f. **Js. 2:5**)
 3. There is no greater station or manner of life than being a Christian
 4. No need to envy the prosperity of the wicked (**Ps. 73:1-3; 15-17; 21-28**)
 5. Look beyond the present to our riches in Heaven (**Mt. 6:19-21**)
- B. To the “rich” brother – **James 1:10-11**
 1. Glory in your humiliation
 2. Coming to Christ humbles the rich believer
 - a. They become equal with the “poor” brother – they are both joint heirs with Christ (**Rom. 8:17**)
 - b. Realization that all their riches will one day fade away
 3. Do Not Trust in Riches (**Mk. 10:24; Lk. 12:13-21**)
 - a. They are temporary (**Js. 1:10b-11; Prov. 23:1-5**)
 - b. Created a self-inflicted snare for the soul – **1 Tim. 6:6-10**
 - c. Rather trust in God, focus on heaven – **1 Tim. 6:7-19**
- C. The point – no matter your lot in life and the circumstances that come with it, we are all enduring some trials as a result
 - a. Ask God for wisdom (**Js. 1:5**)

- b. Look to God's word for guidance
- c. Keep this life in perspective – look to heaven, don't be overly focused on obtaining earthly riches, focus on the spiritual
- d. Learn to be content – **Phil. 4:10-13**

----- **Resisting Temptation in Trials (James 1:12-18)** -----

III. REALIZE THE BLESSING OF PERSEVERING TRIALS

A. **James 1:12**

- B. Blessed is the man who endures temptation [more accurately trials (same word as Js. 1:2)]
- C. Blessed // count it all joy (**Js. 1:2**; **Js. 5:10-11**)
- D. IF we endure, we receive the crown of life (i.e. eternal life)
 - 1. Trials are a test of our faith
 - 2. If we "pass the test" (are approved), we receive the reward (**1 Cor. 9:24-27**) – endurance until the end (**Rev. 2:10**)
 - 3. Promised by God (**Titus 1:2**) – can have full confidence

E. F

IV. Know the Source of Temptation (v. 13-18)

- A. The source of temptation to evil is NOT God (Js. 1:13)
 - 1. It is against His character – God can't be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone
 - 2. He is the giver of good things, not evil (:16-18)
 - 3. SO, don't blame God when we face temptation to sin!
- B. The true source of temptation leading to sin (:14-15)
 - 1. It begins in the heart with our desires (lust)
 - 2. Followed by enticement (opportunity or pressure to fulfil our lust)
 - 3. When we yield (act on) to lust/enticement, it is sin
 - 4. Sin leads to death
- C. Knowing the source, how do we resist/avoid temptation?
 - 1. Lust (desire): reign in our desires
 - a. **Rom. 12:1-2** – give self entirely to the Lord, transformed by the renewing of our mind
 - b. **Gal. 5:24** – as Christians, we crucify the flesh with it's passions and desires
 - c. **Col. 3:1-7** – set our mind on things above and put to death our earthly members (fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, covetousness)
 - 2. Enticement (opportunity): limit opportunities for Sin
 - a. **Mt. 6:13**; **26:41** – pray for God's help
 - b. **Job 31:1**; **Ps. 101:3-4**; **Ps. 119:37** – avoid situations that might cause us to be enticed
 - c. **Ps. 101:6-7**; **Prov. 4:14-15**; **1 Pt. 4:3-4** – avoid ppl who might encourage us to sin
 - 3. Yielding/ Sin: practice self-control
 - a. **1 Cor. 10:13** – know there is no temptation we can't handle
 - b. **Prov. 1:10-19** – don't consent to those who entice
 - c. **Js. 4:7** – resist the devil, and he will flee
 - 4. Death: seek forgiveness!
 - a. Initially through baptism – **Ac. 2:38**

- b. Then through repentance and prayer – **Ac. 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:8-2:2**

Conclusion:

1. No matter our circumstance in life, let's recognize our trials and understand how to overcome them
2. We all face temptation, recognize the source of temptation and do what we can do avoid sin
3. Keep our focus on heaven, and make sure we are right with the Lord
4. INV.