

James 1:12-15 – “Trials and Temptations”

A. When undergoing hardships, some people wrongly may say, “Why did God allow this to happen to me? If He loved me He wouldn’t have let this happen to me.”

B. James wrote a general epistle, **“to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad” (v1).**

1. The reason for this dispersal was persecution during the early church.
2. according to **Acts 8:1**, after Stephen was stoned to death, we are told that a **“great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.”**

You must endure trials and temptations to attain eternal life in Christ.	I. BLESSED PERSERVERENCE II. DO NOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL
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I. **BLESSED PERSERVERENCE** →**v12**

A. The Greek word for **“blessed”** is the same used in Christ’s beatitudes (**Mat 5**).

1. Accord to Dr. John MacArthur, the use of that word makes this verse a beatitude. He wrote, **“Blessed** means much more than the mere happiness of a carefree life that has little conflict or trouble. It rather carries the idea of profound inner joy and satisfaction, a joy that only the Lord Himself is able to bestow on those who, for His sake and in His power, faithfully and patiently endure and conquer trials.”¹
2. Many modern Christians do not think enduring trials as a blessing from God. The health, wealth, and prosperity false gospel has distorted the thinking of many.

B. Why is that we have to persevere or endure trials in the first place? → **1 Peter 1:3-9**

1. Peter said that true believers have an **“an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven” (v4).**
 - a. The reason Christians persevere through trials is because of God’s preserving power working in believers.
 - b. This is reason to **“greatly rejoice” (v6).**
2. The explanation for why we are called to endure trials (testing) is given in **v7**. Peter said is for **“the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**
 - a. Precious metals are put through the fire to purify them.
 - b. Those of us who have been carried through the testing like fire have come out giving God the **“praise and glory and honor”** in His deliverance.
 - c. The return of Christ will be when we will see the greatest **“praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

¹MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James* p 41

II. DO NOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL → **vv13-14**

A. These verses teach that God is not the author of sin as some have claimed.

1. Jameson, Fausset, and Brown wrote, "Let no one fancy that God lays upon him an inevitable necessity of sinning. God does not send trials on you in order to make you worse, but to make you better (Jam 1:16, 17). Therefore do not sink under the pressure of evils (1 Co 10:13)."²
 - a. **1 Cor 10:13; "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."**
 - b. This makes sense in our praying in the Lord's Prayer, **"do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."**
 - 1) When we pray this prayer, we should ask God for wisdom to avoid temptation.
 - 2) For example, we are to stay away from the places and people that bring temptation.
 - 3) Some pray the Lord's Prayer saying, **"do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,"** yet they willfully put themselves directly in the path of temptation.
2. Rather than God being the author of sin, **v14** says our own sinful lusts or desires are to blame: **"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust."**

B. In **v15**, James gave the pathway how lust leads to sin and then death.

1. Physical death is a judgment for sin.
2. **Rev 20:14-15** Describes the lake of fire as the **"the second death, ... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."**

Review, further application, and conclusion:

² Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 485). Logos Research Systems, Inc.