

# Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

## Connect Learn Grow

### Wednesday Bible Study-Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

#### Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 5-February 24, 2021-Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

2021 Bible Study Motto “ Simply put, we must practice the spiritual disciplines that form pathways to the heart of God and transform us into godly people. Training- not trying- is the key” The Complete Book of Discipleship by Bill Hull.

I. Subject : The Promise of Rewards from Trials- James 1:12

#### II. Big Idea

In verse 12 James provides a conclusion to his previous thoughts and comments. James describes the blessed condition of those who endure trials along with an assurance of a reward, a crown. What is the crown ?

#### III. Key definitions

1. Blessed- Is an adjective modifying those who endure temptation/trials . Noted christian author; John McArthur states that “ Blessed “ means much more than mere happiness of a carefree life that has little conflict or trouble.. It carries the idea of a 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. “

2. Endureth-means to remain under pressure, persevere, endure, or bear up under. This kind of endurance is not passive, quietly riding out a storm. It is the spirit that can bear things with determination and hope. To hold up under the worst circumstances and refusing to quit or surrender.

3. Temptation- Means in this verse a trial since the believer is encouraged to endure . If the condition was enticement to sin, the believer would be encouraged to resist or flee.

4. Tried-Means approved after testing and found to be genuine and valuable. To be proved , to be tried as metals are tried by fire and thus are purified. To be approved by the fire of adversity. The person who perseveres in a trial and remains faithful has an approved or genuine faith. A trial can reveal the quality of faith.

5. Crown of life-As used in this verse means something that is living and imperishable and that God gives to believers who endure trials because they love God, a love that is continuous. This crown of life is referred to as a victor’s crown, similar to the ones worn by athletes who successfully competed in games of skill. The crown is not fully described, however, believers can rest assured it will be extraordinary.

#### IV. Key components of James 1:12

1. Blessed is the one.
2. Who perseveres under trial, because, having stood the test.
3. That person will receive the crown of life.
4. That the lord has promised to those who love him.

#### V. The five crowns mentioned in Scripture

1. The incorruptible crown- I Corinthians 9: 24-27.
2. The crown of rejoicing- I Thessalonians 2:19-20.
3. The crown of righteousness- 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
4. The crown of glory- I Peter 5: 1-4.
5. The crown of life- James 1:12, Revelation 2:10.

#### VI. Key question -What is the difference between the crown of life and eternal life?

1. Eternal life is a free gift to everyone who believes in Jesus as lord and Savior.
2. The crown of life is a reward for a life well lived. It is an honor that God bestows upon those who endure God-ordained trials.

#### VII. Thoughts to ponder regarding trials.

1. Trials refine our trust in God.
2. Trials increase our dependence on God.
3. Trials cause us to rely on God for sufficient strength to endure the trial.
4. Trials that are ordained by God are not designed to tempt us to doubt and despair but to motivate us to practice spiritual disciplines.
5. The very presence of God's grace and the Holy Spirit ensures believers that they can pass the test of faith.
6. Trials are designed to produce perseverance which helps the believer to endure the trial.
7. Christians are not saved by enduring trials, but are rewarded for enduring trials.

#### VIII. Spiritual principles

1. Testing and trials are inevitable, but believers never lose sight of what God has promised to those who faithfully endure the season of testing and trials. God has promised a state of blessedness and the "Crown of Life" to those who endure. What a strong word of encouragement for the servants of God.
2. The "Blessed" state is not due to favorable circumstances. Rather it is due to the fact that a believer has endured a "Season of Testing."
3. Endurance in the midst of trials reveals volumes about the "Quality" of a believer's faith.
4. God allows believers to be tested in order to "refine" and "purify" their faith.

## IX. Spiritual disciplines

1. Is “ Endurance”a spiritual discipline, explain why?
2. Is “ Love” a spiritual discipline, explain why?

## X. Application

1. How does verse 12 relate to verses 1-11 of chapter 1?
2. Based on the teaching of this lesson what is your view regarding the promised “ Crown of Life” ?
3. Based on the teaching of this lesson how does your love for God impact your view of trials ?
4. What is a “ Season of Trials” ?