

James 1:9-15
Be Joyful in Trials (part 2)

Introduction: James has not discovered the secret or key for Christian living that he wants to share with us. These are commands (highlighted) to be obeyed.

1) I need to have the proper perspective of developing character through our life reversals—1:9-11

- a) Two ends of the spectrum that demonstrate wisdom—1:9-10a
 - i) ⁹ **Let the lowly** [tapeino,j] **brother boast in his exaltation** [u[yoj],
 - ii) ¹⁰ *and the rich* [plou,sioj] (boast) *in his humiliation* [tapei,nwsij],
- b) Why should the rich people do this?—1:10b-11 (cf. Is. 40:7)
 - i) *because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.*
 - (1) ¹¹ *For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass;*
 - (2) *its flower falls, and its beauty perishes.*
 - ii) *So also will the rich* [plou,sioj] *man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.*
- c) We must evaluate ourselves by spiritual and not material standards. (Moo)

2) I need to acknowledge the real source of temptations—1:12-15

- a) **The beatitude**—1:12 ¹² *Blessed* [maka,rioj] (richly rewarded) *is the man who remains steadfast under* [u`pome,nw] *trial* [peirasmo,j],
 - i) *for when he has stood the test* [do,kimoj] *he will receive the crown* [ste,fanoj] *of life, (the reward that is life; Rev. 2:10)*
 - (1) *which God has promised to those who love* [pres. act. ptc. avgapa,w] *him.*
 - ii) The person who endures and passes his tests/trials will do so by following **heavenly** wisdom. The one who succumbs to temptation will do so because he has followed **worldly** wisdom. (William Varner)
- b) **External** temptation—1:13 ¹³ **Let no one say** (watch your speech) *when he is tempted* [peira,zw], *“I am being tempted* [peira,zw] *by God,” for ...*
 - i) Inward holiness: *God cannot be (successfully) tempted* [avpei,rastoj] *with evil,*
 - ii) External holiness: *and he himself tempts* [peira,zw] *no one.*
- c) **Internal** temptation—1:14-15 ¹⁴ *But each person is tempted* [peira,zw] ...
 - I am responsible for my own sin.
 - i) Illustration from fishing: *when he is lured* [evxe,lkw] *and enticed* [delea,zw] *by his own desire* [evpiqumi,a].
 - (1) Desire seems to be the desire for self-focus and gratification at the expense of what is right. (Dan McCartney)
 - (2) It is any human longing for what God has prohibited. (Moo)
 - ii) Illustration from childbirth:
 - (1) Sin is the child of desire: ¹⁵ *Then desire* [evpiqumi,a] *when it has conceived gives birth to sin,*
 - (a) A temptation is not sin unless it is conceived and gives birth. (MBC)

- (2) Death is the grandchild of desire: *and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
- iii) Arnold Fruchtenbaum reminds us: Fleeing from lust one day does not automatically result in the ability to quickly escape another day. That is why believers must be continually on guard. It is a continuous problem.
- 3) **Something I need to remember:**
- a) Christian maturity is not indicated by the infrequency of temptation but by the infrequency of succumbing to temptation. (Moo)