

James 1:4-12

Intro: Trials are essential means God uses to mature us. Last week, we dealt with two of five keys for persevering through those trials.

II. From Trials to Triumph - Part 2

B. The Means for Perseverance

1. A Joyful Attitude - vs 2
2. An Understanding Mind - vs 3
3. A Submissive Will - vs 4

a. But let patience have its perfect work,

i. The way out of trials is through them with the right hear

ii. **hupomone** - cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:--enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

ii. **teleios** - complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness:--of full age, man, perfect.

b. that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

i. **teleios**; not sinlessness - 1 Jo 1:7; better rendered mature

ii. **holokleros** - complete in every part, iperfectly sound (in body): entire, whole.

- holo - where we get holograph—a 360 degree 3D depiction of an object

- Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless** and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

- Ps 101:2 I will behave wisely in a **perfect** way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

iii. Accentuated with lacking nothing - **leipo** - to leave, to fail or be absent: be destitute (wanting), lack.

c. Moab

i. "Moab has been at ease from his youth; He has settled on his dregs, And has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, Nor has he gone into captivity. Therefore his taste remained in him, And his scent has not changed. - Jer 48:11

ii. moving wine from vessel to vessel allows for the wine to become sweet and drinkable b/c it leave dregs in each of the containers

d. Abraham

i. Gen 15:1-6; Ro 4:1-22

ii. Gen 22:1-12; Heb 11:17-19

4. A Believing Heart - vs 5-8

a. If any of you lacks wisdom,

i. it is difficult to know how to handle trials

ii. Humility looks to one who has more experience or wisdom to find success

b. let him ask of God,

i. who gives to all liberally and without reproach,

- **haplos** - bountifully; --liberally.

-carries the idea of singleness of heart

-of doing something unconditionally, w/o bargaining

- **oneidizo** - to defame, i.e. rail at, chide, taunt:--cast in teeth, (suffer) reproach, revile, upbraid.

-used in Mt 11:20 of Jesus' woe to Chorazin and Bethsaida

ii. and it will be given to him. - Jer 29:12; Mt 7:7; 21:22; Mr 11:24; Lu 11:9; Joh 14:13; 15; 1Jo 5:14-15

b. The right kind of asking - But let him ask in faith, - Mr 11:24;

i. Imperative form

ii. with no doubting, - 1Ti 2:8

- it must be a request backed up with genuine trust in God's character, purpose, and promise

- doubt is justified in our minds due to

-our underserving nature

-or blame God for the trial w/o a way out

-His ability or inability

-His trustworthiness

iii. Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

iv. for he who doubts is

- like a wave of the sea

- driven and tossed by the wind.

- Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

c. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

i. he is a double-minded man, - Jas 4:8

- **dipsuchos** - two-spirited, i.e. vacillating (in opinion or purpose):--double minded.

- claims to be a believer

- not acting as one

ii. unstable in all his ways.

- **akatastatos** - inconstant:--unstable.

- affects his whole life

- Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

5. A Humble Spirit

a. Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

i. **tapeinos** - depressed, humiliated (in circumstances or disposition):--base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly.

- could be the financially poor Jew in the dispersion

- could represent the spiritual average Joe today

ii. **kauchaomai** - to vaunt (in a good or a bad sense):--(make) boast, glory, joy, rejoice.

- something that we can take pride (Glory) in, we are children of God

- The World's thinking of us - 1Co 4:13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

- What God says

-1Pe 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

-1 Jo 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

-Ro 8:16-18 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

b. but the rich in his humiliation,

i. *plousios* - wealthy; figuratively, abounding with:--rich.

ii. *tapeinosis* - depression (in rank or feeling):--humiliation, be made low, low estate, vile.

iii. The Process described

- because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

-quoted from Isa 40:6; 1Pe 1:24;

-temporal blessing of this earth will pass away -Job 14:2; Ps 37:2; 90:5-6; 102:11; 103:15; 1Co 7:31; Jas 4:14; 1Jo 2:17

- For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than

-it withers the grass;

-its flower falls,

-and its beautiful appearance perishes.

- So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits -the loss of temporal blessing is meant to drive one to the Lord

iv. The rich is to glory in God's teaching process so that he may concentrate on important (eternal) things

- Ps 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

- Ps 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

- Ps 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

C. The Reward for Perseverance - vs 12

1. Blessed is the man who endures temptation;

a. *makarios* - supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off:-- blessed, happy

i. same word found w/ each of the Beatitudes - Mt 5

- ii. More than mere happiness - carries the idea of profound inner joy and satisfaction
 - iii. 1Pe 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
 - b. the man who endures temptation
 - i. doesn't stop trusting in God
 - ii. he becomes approved,
 - iii. Doesn't despise God's chastening - Job 5:17; Pr 3:11-12; Heb 12:5;
- 2. he will receive the crown of life
 - a. **stephanos** - a chaplet (as a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally; --crown.
 - i. not a sign of royalty, but of winning
 - ii. Could be translated - the crown which is life, eternal life
 - b. Crowns
 - i. of Righteousness for those who love His appearing - 2 Tim 4:8
 - ii. of Glory for those good shepherds - 1 Pet 5:4
 - iii. Of Life for those who Love Him - Jas 1:12
 - c. which the Lord has promised to those who love Him
 - i. **epaggello** - to announce upon (reflexively), i.e. (by implication) to engage to do something, to assert something respecting oneself:--profess, (make) promise.
 - ii. those who persevere are associated with those who love God

Application:

1Jo 5:1-5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?