

April 26, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 1:12-15

“Joy in Trials – Part 5: A Heavenly Reward – Part 2”

- I. Prescript (1:1)**
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)**
 - A. Develop a Heavenly Attitude (2-4)**
 - B. Seek Heavenly Wisdom (5-8)**
 - C. Apply a Heavenly Perspective (9-11)**
 - D. Look to the Heavenly Reward (12-15)**
 - 1. In Trials (12)**
 - a. Perseverance**
 - b. Prize**
 - 2. In Temptations (13-15)**
 - a. Perspective (13a)**
 - b. Proof (13b)**
 - c. Problem (14)**
 - d. Process (14-15)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Give an example of **how you joyfully faced a trial** while “staying at home” over the past few weeks. How did the principles in James 1 help?
2. Why would someone want to say that God is guilty of tempting him or her? When did humans first start blaming others for their sins? Give examples of some common excuses for sinning (giving in to temptations) in our culture. Why do some say that when we blame someone (or something) else we are ultimately blaming God?
3. What is the difference between a trial and a temptation? How might a trial become a temptation? What proof does James give for the fact that temptations are not from God.
4. If God can't be tempted by evil, and Jesus is God, then how did Jesus experience temptation? (See Mt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13; Heb. 2:18; 4:15; Phil. 2:5-8)
5. Read **Mt. 15:10-20**. Where is the real problem when it comes to temptations and sin? How severe is this problem? (See Rom. 3) Will temptations ever completely go away in this life? (See Gal. 5:16-17) As you have matured as a follower of Jesus and student of His Word, how have temptations changed in your life?
6. What is the **process** of temptation that James outlines for us in 1:14-15? Why do some compare it to fishing or hunting? Read 2 Samuel 11-12 and identify the steps in the process from David's sin with Bathsheba.
7. When and where in the process is it best to stop the temptation? How do spiritual disciplines help?
8. How does looking to your heavenly reward give you victory over temptation? (See Heb. 11:24-26) List some specific rewards you are looking forward to in heaven. Compare them to the rewards offered by sin.
9. Remember this quote when temptation comes: ***“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”*** Read Judges 16. How was this exemplified in the life of Samson?
10. What **“death”** is James referring to in verse 15?
11. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 1:12-15** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week [Remember: there is a really nice dinner waiting for all who memorize the whole book of James by the time we conclude studying it]. Ask the Lord to give you a heavenly perspective about your status in life (poor / rich). Ask Him to use trials in your life to strengthen your resolve to live for things that are eternal.
12. Extra credit: read the book, **“Safely Home,”** by Randy Alcorn and train your heart to seek heavenly rewards instead of earthly rewards.