

James
Women's Bible Study Revised 2022

Lesson 4: James 1:9-12

⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1) Read James 1:9-10. What does boast mean?

James describes "the lowly brother" and "the rich [brother]." These two types of brothers are juxtaposed to illustrate a point James is trying to make. What is that point? (Note: Juxtaposition, in literary terms, means placing to things side by side so as to highlight their differences.)

2) Only in studying these vv. 9-10 do I realize that I should not have separated them from our study of vv. 5-8. How are vv. 9-10 related to vv. 5-8?

3) Read James 1:12. We have talked about the definition of the word "steadfast". To remind yourself of these definitions, rewrite them here.

4) What does "blessed" mean?

5) In James 1:12, it says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him. What is "the crown of life"?"

6) Is James saying that our salvation is based on our steadfastness (or perseverance) through trials? Explain your answer.

7) What exactly is James' teaching about steadfastness (or perseverance) through trials? Read the following passages: John 5:24; 6:37-40; Romans 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Jude 24.

8) How am I to accomplish steadfastness? (Read John 14:15-31 and the attached Chapter 6 from Lessons from the Upper Room by Sinclair Ferguson published by Ligonier Ministries)

9) Reread James 1:2-12. Reflect on what you've learned from these verses. How does what we've learned impact the way you see trials by God? What are you going to do differently when facing a trial (large or small)?