

A New Look On Life

September 13, 2026

Bible Passage: James 1:9–12

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For 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. ¹² 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.

Big Idea: To endure through the hardships of life, the Christian must find _____ in their _____ **position** (identity in Christ).

Fighter Memory Verse SEPTEMBER

Psalms 19:7–8

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

#1-The Test of _____: If you lack stuff, boast in the _____ status you have as a _____ of God (v.9)

- The “_____” mostly consisted of the scattered and persecuted Jewish believers to whom James wrote.
- Suffering is the great _____ of people.
- This “boasting” is not an arrogance, but a rejoicing in the fact that, contrary to the world’s opinion, their status in Christ is _____.

#2- The Test of _____: If you have lots of stuff now, properly assess your riches now before it’s too late (10-11)

- James has more to say to the rich than to the poor.
 - _____ (stuff, money) can be a major complicating factor in life.
 - Money by itself is morally _____.
 - It is your _____ toward money that matters.
- James’ life insight: “MONEY PRESENTS A FALSE VIEW OF _____”

#3-The Greater Reward: Persevering in trials & testings results in the Crown of Life—_____ (12)

- **blessed**-- (makarios) means more than simply being happy or fortunate.
 - an inner joy that is undisturbed by outward circumstances because it comes from resting and trusting in the Lord
- **crown of life** is not a reference to _____
 - a reference to final rewards when a believer finishes the race and it symbolizes victory like a gold medal.
- James highlights that this reward belongs to “those who _____ him.”

TRUTH INTO ACTION

- **God is at work in the hard stuff of life-** Remember that God is serious about my spiritual maturity and He uses hardship to bring it about.

- **Poverty & prosperity both test my faith-** I need to live aware that whether I have “little” or “plenty” what really matters is the condition of my heart.
- **Trails & testing can cause me to lose focus –** I need to love God while expecting the greater reward and persevere.

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Warm Up: What is something that you have/used to have that once had lots of value/worth but isn't worth anything now.

1. Read James 1:9–10. Explain the contrast James makes between the “brother of humble circumstances” and the “rich man.” Would you identify yourself with the poor man or the rich man? Why?
2. Read James 1:11. What is James’ admonition to those who are rich? What are some of the specific ways being wealthy hinders us from trusting God? (Deuteronomy 8:11–14; Proverbs 11:28)?
3. James is wanting us to find our value and worth not in what we own or have, but in Jesus fully (v. 10-11). What does it look like for us to find full worth/value in Jesus? Read the following passages. What do these verses say about what Jesus says about us: 1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 2:10
4. How much of your identity and contentment is tied to your possessions and status? How do you know? (cf. Luke 12:22–23; 1 Timothy 6:9–10)
5. How is God using trials to refocus my heart away from possessions to Him?

Prayer: What really matters to You Father is the condition of my heart. Thank you for loving me and using the hard stuff of life to grow my spiritual maturity. Cause me to LIVE EXPECTING THE GREATER REWARD—YOU! In Jesus sweet name, Amen!

RESOURCES:

James for You by Sam Allberry

Christ-Centered Exposition in James by David Platt, Danny Akin & Tony Merida

James New Testament Commentary by Bruce Barton