

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adults live surrendered

10/10/2025

Passage: James 1:9-12

James 1:9-12 | But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; 10 and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

- This section may seem like James had a side thought but remember- context is key- the theme is still trials. He is contrasting two types of people that would have not mingled socially during his time. The bottom line is whether you are rich or poor, trials will be a part of life which should cause us to ask, “am I still trusting/surrendering to God’s plan”?
- Lowly/humble circumstances= poor person
 - This would be the majority of people who received this letter
 - Told to glory or boast in their high position. High position= a born again believer, an adopted son/daughter of God
- The rich man
 - Told to glory or boast in his humiliation. Humiliation= humbled position, trials of life bring humility; result is recognizing true riches are found in Christ and the grace of God
- Trials are the great equalizer regardless of whatever comparison may be apparent. (We are people that compare; ex: finances, singleness to marriage, weight, giftings/talents, belongings, status, social media presence, etc).
- Why should we surrender to God’s plan, regardless of our status?
 - Look at His character- good, just, sovereign, loving, gracious, merciful, wise, patient, faithful, trustworthy
- Levels of surrender
 - Salvation- initial surrender of giving our lives to Christ (John 1:12)
 - Daily sacrifice- giving every moment of every day to Christ and living for Him. This takes time in the life of a follower, the goal is to represent the character of Christ (2 Cor 5:17, Rom 6:13, Rom 12:1, Gal 2:20).
- What is the result for those who endure trials (trusting in God’s plan)?
 - Blessing= happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God
 - Receive the crown of life (see also Rev 2:10)= a promise of eternal life; Jesus welcomes “those who love Him” in heaven

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 1:9-12 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options - you can easily compare in the Bible app or on biblegateway.com). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. Do you advertise your trials, broadcasting/complaining to anyone who will listen? Or do you bear them quietly trusting in God's plan? Explain.
3. Read Matthew chapters 5-7 (the Sermon on the Mount). This sermon is Jesus proclaiming the "upside down" kingdom of God and we see many similarities between this sermon and the book of James. What types of people does Jesus describe as blessed?
4. Read Revelation 3:14-22. What types of things did this church boast in? How does Jesus describe their true state (referring to their spiritual state)? How does Jesus correct this church?
5. What does the word surrender mean?
 - a. Have you surrendered your life to Jesus as Lord and Savior? (if not, what questions do you have about Jesus? What things are holding you back?).
 - b. Read Mark 8:34, Romans 6:13, Romans 12:1. Do you live every day as a daily sacrifice for Jesus? What areas of your life are you not willing to surrender?