

**James**  
Sermon Three – *But Joy Comes in the Morning*  
1:12  
January 18, 2026

**V 12** “Blessed” fortunate and happy because of circumstances; privileged recipient of divine favor

“temptation” = *peirasmos* = same word as “trials” **v 2**; a temptation is an opportunity to do God’s will, or to depart from God’s will.

“endures” same word as “patience/endurance” in **v 3** (*hypomeno*), to stay in place beyond an expected point of time; to remain instead of fleeing. **Psalm 27:1** “Wait on the LORD” translates the same Gr word in the Septuagint.

“has been approved” lit “has become approved” Trials have an end! Same root word as “testing” in **v 3**; “approved” means “passing the test; genuine”

Two words in NT for “crown,” *stephanos*, a symbol of accomplishment, or a reward; in ancient Greek culture, made of woven leaves or branches, olive, laurel, etc., and *diadema*, the crown of royalty, only used three times. The crowns awarded to believers are *stephanos* crowns, not diadems.

God rewards believers for good deeds. The words used for “reward” are the same words used for paying wages to a worker who has legitimately earned them.

**Matthew 5:11,12** a “reward” (*misthos*) for enduring tribulation, same word as “wages” in **Matthew 20:8**.

**Matthew 6:1-4** a reward for good deeds done with the proper attitude

**Matthew 10:41,42** Every opportunity for service carries with it an opportunity for reward.

**1 Corinthians 3:7,8** A reward for evangelism

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** a reward at the Bema Seat of Christ for a life built upon the foundation of Jesus; loss of reward, but not loss of Salvation, for a life lived out of step with the Lord.

**2 Timothy 2:11-13** a reward of reigning with Christ for those who endure.

Some rewards are specifically called “crowns.” In Greek culture, the olive headband was the coveted crown of the athlete, not for the value of the crown itself, but for what it represented, honor, virtue, success, self-discipline.

**2 Timothy 4:7,8** the “crown of righteousness” for “all who have loved His appearing”

**Revelation 2:10** the “crown of life” for enduring trials and tribulations, just like James 1:12; if a crown of life can be given to someone who already has everlasting life, then this represents a richer experience of the everlasting life.

**1 Peter 5:1-4** the “crown of glory” to elders who have served well

**1 Thessalonians 2:19,20** the “crown of rejoicing” for those who minister in the lives of others

**1 Corinthians 9:22-27** an “imperishable crown” for a life of self-discipline. Notice Paul’s realization that even he was susceptible to not being approved, or of not passing a test; this passage is about living the Christian life, not about eternal salvation.

Back to **James 1:12** Might James be saying there is a present tense enjoyment of this crown of life? Consider Job, **James 5:10,11**. Job endured his trial, he found approval, and during his lifetime he received back his wealth and more children; the remainder of his years were literally crowned with life. There is a present tense blessing, in this life, for enduring trials, not only a future, after-death experience.

**Psalm 30:5** For His anger is but for a moment,  
His favor is for life;  
Weeping may endure for a night,  
But joy comes in the morning.