

James 1:9-12 – Dealing with tough times in life - pt.2

1. A Biblical Mindset during trials – v. 9-11

a. Example - Rich and poor believers – vv.9-11

- Lowly Brother who is struggling with being poor can still be joyful in His circumstance. (v. 9)
- The rich can be joyful in his humiliation - losing wealth or influence (v. 10-11)

b. Lessons about our mindset during trials

- All are equal when it comes to trials – I'm not alone!
- Regardless of our situation, we know that as believers we are:
 - + Part of God's family – Romans 8:15
 - + Promised that God will provide our needs – Matthew 6:33
 - + Trials are temporary. A believer should focus on their eternal hope.
 - * Romans 8:18, Revelation 21:3-4
 - * 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

2. The big picture of trials – v. 12

a. For those who remain faithful and trust God through trial, they will receive the crown of life.

- not like a king's crown, a symbol of victory or honor

b. Romans 8:28-29

- God works everything for good for His children.
- His plan includes saving us (when we accept His gift of forgiveness) and making us more like Jesus.

c. 1 Peter 5:6-10

- "Humble" = submit to His plan
- "Casting all your anxieties" = Our first response in trials
- "Roaring lion" = Satan wants to defeat us in trials
- "brotherhood throughout the world" = we are not alone!
- "Restore, confirm, strengthen, establish" = God is with us every step of the way.

Final thoughts:

1. Which of the lessons about our mindset in trials stands out as the most encouraging to you?

2. In view of eternity with God, our trials should seem light and temporary. How can we have this mindset the next time we find ourselves struggling?

