

## “A Study in James”

Text: James 1:12-15

1. God’s goal for each of us who are His followers is \_\_\_\_\_ maturity.
2. He will allow tests/troubles/trials/temptations to confront us in order to “\_\_\_\_\_” the strength of the fabric of our faith.

vs. 12 - “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”

vs. 12 - <sup>12</sup> “Happy is the man who doesn’t give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him.” (New Living Translation)

3. Christ-followers are to committed to a life of: not giving up, steadfastness, commitment, persistence, \_\_\_\_\_, dedication and determination.
4. Christ-followers remain \_\_\_\_\_ in their devotion to the GREAT COMMANDMENT: “learn to love God with heart, soul, and mind and learn to love other people.”

“I’m a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I’m a disciple of His and I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I’m done and finished with low-living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!"

5. Each time we are confronted with a test/trial/trouble/temptation, we are presented with an opportunity to continue our journey of "\_\_\_\_\_ deeper in Christ," OR we can give in to \_\_\_\_\_ and emotions, and allow the situation to swallow us and rob us of our confidence and joy in God and His ability to take care of His children.

**"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because he has stood the test...."**

6. What does it mean to be "blessed"? Jesus used the term "blessed" in the framework of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-23) to describe the \_\_\_\_\_ quality of a \_\_\_\_\_ servant of God.
7. This "blessedness" is a spiritual state of \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and prosperity—a deep, joy-filled contentment that cannot be shaken by poverty, pain, sorrow, grief, loss, famine, persecution, war, or any other trial or tragedy we face in life.
8. The true servant of God is "blessed", regardless of circumstances, because God has \_\_\_\_\_ him/her with a fully satisfied soul (Psalm 63:1-5; John 4:14).

John 4:14 – **"<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life."**

Psalm 63:1-5 - **63 God, you are my God. I search for you. I thirst for you like someone in a dry, empty land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>I have seen you in the**

Temple and have seen your strength and glory. <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life, I will praise you. <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live. I will lift up my hands in prayer to your name. <sup>5</sup> I will be content as if I had eaten the best foods. My lips will sing, and my mouth will praise you.”

9. The completion of our living in \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s care, provision and protection will be the “\_\_\_\_\_ of life.”

10. The believer who endures/perseveres the tests/trials/troubles/temptations of this life shall be “\_\_\_\_\_” with life itself, eternal life – life that goes on and on, never ending.

John 14:1-2 states: “Jesus said, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. <sup>2</sup> There are many rooms in my Father’s house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

Philippians 3:20-12 says: “<sup>20</sup> But our homeland is in heaven, and we are waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. <sup>21</sup> By his power to rule all things, he will change our humble bodies and make them like his own glorious body.”

II Corinthians 4:17 states: “<sup>17</sup> We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles.”

11. God’s “crown of life” is not glory and honor here on earth, but the reward of \_\_\_\_\_ life – living with God forever.

12. The way to be in God’s winners’ circle is by \_\_\_\_\_ Him and staying \_\_\_\_\_ even under the pressure of tests/trials/troubles/temptations.

13. Although at times we may stumble and fall, give in to tests/trials/troubles/temptations, we must get back on our feet and \_\_\_\_\_ God to lead us through.

II Corinthians 11:23-29 – “<sup>23</sup> Are they serving Christ? I am serving him more. (I am crazy to talk like this.) I have worked much harder than they. I have been in prison more often. I have been hurt more in beatings. I have been near death many times. <sup>24</sup> 5 times the Jews have given me their punishment of 39 lashes with a whip. <sup>25</sup> 3 different times I was beaten with rods. One time I was almost stoned to death. 3 times I was in ships that wrecked, and one of those times I spent a night and a day in the sea. <sup>26</sup> I have gone on many travels and have been in

danger from rivers, thieves, my own people, the Jews, and those who are not Jews. I have been in danger in cities, in places where no one lives, and on the sea. And I have been in danger with false Christians. <sup>27</sup> I have done hard and tiring work, and many times I did not sleep. I have been hungry and thirsty, and many times I have been without food. I have been cold and without clothes. <sup>28</sup> Besides all this, there is on me every day the load of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> I feel weak every time someone is weak, and I feel upset every time someone is led into sin.”

14. The "main thing" is that at the heart and center of your life is the " \_\_\_\_\_ that is in Christ," a simple thing. " \_\_\_\_\_ God with all your heart, soul, mind. Love other people as you love yourself." "Go, preach and teach, making disciples.”

II Timothy 4:7-8: <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day — not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for him to come again.”

