

Living in God's perspective

Scripture: James 1:9-12

Life is a test, Life is a trust and Life is a temporary assignment. Rick Warren.

We all live in a very uncertain world where many things are not predictable in life. Many people who were there last year and not with us this year. We need to be very careful the way we live our lives. This life is a gift that God has given to us and what we do with this life is our gift back to God.

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:9-12

- To persevere in trials we need to have God's perspective on poverty and riches.
- Trials are inevitable in our life
- All of us go through trials whether we like it or not, but the only difference is how we respond to these trials makes a lot of difference.
- If we persevere under trial and not give in we will receive reward in this life and in the life to come i.e. is in heaven.

Here James first speaks to the poor Christian (vs. 9), then the rich Christian (vs. 10) and then he offers hope to both the poor and the rich to persevere under trials.

1. THE POOR MUST GLORY IN THEIR ETERNAL RICHES IN CHRIST.

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. James 1:9

- Here James is talking about the person who is economically poor.
- Through out the book of James, we read about the rich and the poor, he particularly draws his teaching from the Old Testament and also from the teachings of Jesus. (1:9-11; 2:1-7, 15-16; 5:1-6)
 - o God has a particular concern for the poor. 2:5 (Ps 68:5; Deut 10:18)
 - o Because God has a concern for the poor, we need to imitate God.
James 1:27, 2:15-16
 - o Sometimes the OT associates Poor with being and humble and righteous and the rich as a wicked oppressor. (Ps 10; Ps 37:8-17; 72:2, 4). But this need not be necessarily true because some of the wealthiest people in the Bible were godly

and some poor people were carnal. Jesus himself says in Luke 6:20, “Blessed are the poor and woe to you rich people.

- How can this poverty be a blessing?

- Poor people lack resources and they need to rely upon God for their daily provision. Many times the rich people are self reliant.

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- So when James says that a poor man needs to glory in his high position, it speaks about his spiritual wealth in Christ. When a poor man begins to trust God, he instantly becomes an heir of the vast fortune. He is a child of the king of kings and has access to the kings resources.
 - Rom 8:17, *Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*
 - Who I am in Christ. Neil Anderson- Accepted, Secure and Significant
 - The world teaches us that material blessing is a sign of God’s approval and it alone gives us meaning and happiness in life, but in God’s perspective a truly happy man is the one who trusts God for everything big and small and relies upon His God.
 - If you trust in your resources the Bible says, vs 10, the riches will pass away like a wild flower in the forest and also like a plant that withers away under the scorching sun.
 - But if you trust in God, He will never fail you any season of your life.
- How can a poor man glory in his high position? By knowing who he is in Christ and trusting God for all his needs and thanking him for all of his provision.
 - Whatever I am today and possess today is all by the grace of God and 1 Cor 4:7, what do you have that you did not receive?
 - The temptation of a poor man is to covet to become wealthy, or he may feel that he is rejected by God and hence is poor, he need to overcome this temptation by giving glory to God for who he is in Christ.

2. THE RICH SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR LOW POSITION. VS.10

¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

- The temptation for a rich man is to glory in his status and wealth because of his financial success. But James says that he should take pride in his low position.
- Why should he take pride in his low position? Because, he will pass away like a wild flower, he will fade away while he goes about his business. His wealth pertains to only this life and he and his money will fade away.
- When the game is over both the king and the pawn goes to the same box.

- Death is the conclusion of the rich person no matter how much he owns, he cannot take anything along with him.
 - I think most of us seated here are in the category of rich people, we own houses, cars, computers, gadgets, clothes, so on and so forth, and how can we glory in our low position?
 - i. **We can glory in the fact that God has opened our eyes to see the vanity of worldly wealth and status.**
 - Apostle calls all this as garbage. Phil 3:8
 - Even Solomon after enjoying all the fleeting pleasures of the world says that apart from Christ says its vanity.....
 - Everything outside of God is vanity, vanity, vanity
 - ii. **We can glory in the fact that God has shown us the essence of true happiness and honor.**
 - True happiness is to know God and the great honor is being the servant of God. Jer 9:23-24
 - iii. **Glory in the fact that eternal inheritance cannot taken away.**
 - Ps 49, Mocks a man who boasts about his riches and wealth he has accumulated..
*People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish. Vs. 12*
 - 1 Pet 1:4, ⁴ *and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,*
 - There is an inheritance that is reserved for us in heaven that is imperishable and undefiled.
3. WE CAN PERSEVERE UNDER TRAIL BY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CROWN OF LIFE
- Both the rich and the poor can persevere under trial by looking forward to the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him (vs. 12)
 - When we study the theme of this chapter in vs.2-2, 12; Trail occurs in 2, 12 and Joy and blessing occurs in 2 and 12,
 - Blessed means happy, but blessedness is more than happiness it's a lasting emotion, it is for those who persevere under trial
 - Lets us study 4 truths from this verse,
 - A. BOTH POVERTY AND RICHES ARE TESTS OF FAITH.**
 - Greed is not a temptation that comes only to a wealthy person, a poor man can also be greedy and materialistic.
 - Both rich and poor are prone to pride.
 - A poor man may take pride that he has embraced poverty for the sake of the kingdom. And boast in his spiritual wealth. The rich can be proud of how God has blessed him materially and made him a great influence. Both of them need to learn humility from God.
 - Many pass the test of poverty but fail the test of prosperity.

B. TO BE BLESSED IS NOT TO BE EXEMPT FROM TRAILS BUT TO Persevere UNDER THEM.

- James doesn't say, blessed is the man who never goes through trial, but blessed is the man who perseveres under trails.
 1. Testing has a way of leveling the rich and the poor. It helps us to focus on the right things namely, eternal things.
 2. Its only when we have God's perspective of eternity, can we preserve under trails with joy.

C. Those who persevere under trails will be rewarded with the crown of life

- Reward: Crown of Life
- Stephan : crown (Gk)
- This is the eternal crown we will enjoy forever in heaven
- 1 Tim 2:12 "If we endure we will also reign with him.

D. The strength to persevere under trails comes from our love for christ.

- The crown is basically for those who Love God!
- God know those who love Him.
- This is very important because this love for Christ keeps us from loving the world.
- When we love Christ it does not exempt us from trial but it gives us the strength to preserve under trails.
- After restoring his disciples o faith after resurrection, one of the very important question that Jesus asked Peter in John21, three times is "Do u love me?" this is the same question that he asks us today.
- Love for Christ should be the motivating factor in our Christian lives.

Conclusion:

Life is like a vapor. James 4:14. We will die soon; let us not waste this life by living by the standards of the world. But let us live this life from God's perspective and be blessed.