

Learning to PERSEVERE ~ James 1:9-12

→Scripture Reading James 1:2-5, 12

The RICH POOR - and The POOR RICH ~ James 5:9-11

[9] The brother in HUMBLE circumstances ought to take pride in his HIGH position. [10] But the one who is RICH should take pride in his LOW position...

Literature- It was the BEST of times - it was the WORST of times.

Biblical - When I am WEAK - then I am STRONG

PARADOX - is TRUTH Standing on its Head SHOUTING for ATTENTION GK Chesterton

THINK about life from God's perspective then you will realize that you ARE rich. ABegg

Romans 8:15-17 (NIV) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [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.

[9] The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. [10] But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he 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 man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

IMPLICATION

→It is NOT about what you HAVE - it is ALL about WHO you ARE

James 1:9-10 (ESV) Let the **lowly brother** BOAST in his EXALTATION, and the **rich** IN his HUMILIATION...

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT) This is what the LORD says: "Don't let the wise BOAST in their wisdom, or the powerful BOAST in their power, or the rich BOAST in their riches. [24] But those who wish to BOAST **should BOAST in this alone: that they truly KNOW ME and understand that I am the LORD** who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!

IMPLICATION

→We are ALL the SAME - at the FOOT of the CROSS (we can Only come With EMPTY Hands)

Both POVERTY and RICHES bring enormous PRESSURE on a person **to focus on the world** RATHER than on Christ. ESVSB

1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with CONTENTMENT is great gain. [7] For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. [8] But if we have food and clothing, **we will be CONTENT with that.**

Guard AGAINST Comparison ~ James 1:12

[2] Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith DEVELOPS perseverance

[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.

IMPLICATION

→ **NONE of this is INSTANT - Spiritual Maturity takes TIME** (God's work in our lives is a PROCESS)

James is speaking against the **emphasis on INSTANT results**. The goals that he has mentioned so far - FAITH, ENDURANCE, MATURITY - ALL sound wonderful if we could only have them immediately. LAC

→ **Do I LOVE God?**

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) God SHOWED how much He LOVED us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. [10] This is REAL LOVE - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

TAKE AWAY ??

When TRIALS and Testing is HARD Remember... A. Murray

- I am here by God's APPOINTMENT
- I am IN His KEEPING
- I am UNDER His TRAINING
- I am HERE for His TIME

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us RUN with PERSEVERANCE the race marked out for us. [2] Let us FIX our EYES on JESUS, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] **CONSIDER Him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, SO THAT you will **NOT grow WEARY and LOSE heart**.

THROUGH it ALL - by Andraé Crouch

I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow,
there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.
But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation,
that my trials come to only make me strong.

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all, - I've learned to depend upon His Word.

I've been to lots of places, I've seen a lot of faces,
there's been times I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hours,
yes, those precious lonely hours, Jesus lets me know that I was His own

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all, - I've learned to depend upon His Word.