

# *Women of the Word*

St. Rose Community Church  
EQUIP

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James 1:9-11

## Comprehension: Annotation

- What repeated or emphasized words or phrases did you mark in the passage?

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James 1:9-11

## Comprehension: Annotation

- What words or phrases did you mark that you did not understand fully or want to know more about?

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James 1:9-11

## Comprehension: Annotation

- What contrasts or comparisons did you see?

Let the **lowly** brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the **rich** in his humiliation, because **like a flower of the grass he will pass away**.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James 1:9-11

# Comprehension

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Rich x2

Flower x2

Grass x2

Pass away/fade away x2

Lowly?

Exaltation?

Exaltation vs. Humiliation

Lowly vs. Rich

# Comprehension

Did you check any other translations that helped you understand the passage better?

**NASB** But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; **10** and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

**NIV** 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.

## Comprehension

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

**Lowly:** humble circumstances

**Exaltation:** high position

**Boast:** take pride in; glory in

Exaltation vs. Humiliation

Lowly vs. Rich

Rich x2

Flower x2

Grass x2

Pass away/fade away x2

## Interpretation

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

## Cross References:

Flower x2

Grass x2

Pass away/fade away x2

Does the analogy of the flowers passing away remind you of anything?

What could be some passages that could help us understand this?

## Cross References: Flower Analogy

### **1 Peter 1:24-25**

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

### **Isaiah 40:6-8**

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Lowly: humble circumstances  
Exaltation: high position

Exaltation vs. Humiliation  
Lowly vs. Rich

Rich x2

Flower x2

Grass x2

Pass away/fade away x2

## Cross References: On Wealth

## Matthew 6:19-24

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness 24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

## Cross References: On Wealth

1 Timothy 6:6-9

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

## Cross References: On Wealth

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,<sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James 1:9-11

# Interpretation / Truths

- Poverty & riches both bring challenges of focusing on the world instead of God.
- The lowly person should know that their reward is in heaven.
- The rich person should know that their wealth is temporary and brings no advantage before God.
- Those who hope in wealth will be put to shame.
- Poverty or riches may be some of the trials Christians face (James 1).

# Application

- True and lasting reward is found in Jesus. We should focus on this.
- We should not love temporary treasure like wealth or earthly possessions.
- We should not put our hope in the temporary things of the world.
- We should have a different mindset than the world regarding wealth.
- If we face poverty or lack of recognition in the world we should receive it as a trial which can be used in our lives to strengthen our faith and hope in God.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:12-15

# Comprehension: Annotation

- What repeated or emphasized words or phrases did you mark in the passage?

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:12-15

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## Repeated Words

Temptation x5

Desire x2

**Sin** x2

## Comprehension: Annotation

- What attributes of God do you see in the passage?

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

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## **Attributes of God**

- God promises reward to those who love him.
- God cannot be tempted with evil and does not tempt anyone with evil.

Which words or phrases do you not fully understand or want to know more about?

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

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## Hard Words + Phrases

What is the crown of life?

What exactly does James mean by “*Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death*”?

## Check other Translations: NASB

Blessed is a man who **perseveres** under trial; for once he has **been approved**, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is **carried away and enticed by his own lust**. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin **is accomplished, it brings forth death.**

## Check other Translations: NIV

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. When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are **dragged away** by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

## Cross References

blessed: James 5:11, Matt 10: 22, 1 Peter 3:14

crown of life: Revelation 2:10, 3:11; 1 Cor 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4

which God has promised: James 2:5

desire when it has conceived, gives birth to sin: Job 15:35, Psalm 7:14, Isaiah 59:4

sin when it is full grown brings forth death: Romans 5:12, 6:23

## Cross References on the Blessing in Trials

**James 5:11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**Matt 10: 22** and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**1 Peter 3:14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

## Cross References on the Crown of Life / Eternal Reward

**Revelation 2:10** Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**1 Corinthians 9:25** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

## Cross References on Eternal Reward

**2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

## Cross Reference “*which God has promised*”

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

## Cross References

*“desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin”*

**Job 15:34-35** For the company of the godless is barren, and fire consumes the tents of bribery. They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit.

**Psalms 7:14** Behold, the wicked man conceives evil, and is pregnant with mischief, and gives birth to lies.

## Cross References

*“sin when it is full grown brings forth death”*

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:12-15

## Summarize / Paraphrase

God does not tempt anyone with evil. People are tempted by evil and sin because of their own wicked desires. Evil desires are what lead to sin and sin ultimately leads to death.

However, those that persevere through trials in their faith and love for Jesus, will one day receive the reward of eternal life.

## Stage 3: Application

What does this passage teach me about God?

- God is holy, he does not sin or tempt anyone to sin.
- God promises eternal rewards, such as the “crown of life” (salvation) to those who love him.

## Stage 3: Application

What does this passage teach me about myself/humanity?

- Humanity has evil desires that lead to sin and ultimately death.
- Christians will be tempted to renounce their faith in and love for Jesus because of trials.

## Stage 3: Application

What does this passage teach me about redemption through Jesus?

-Humanity needs Jesus to change their desires and help them to resist temptation.

If someone remains in Christ, even through trials, they will be blessed and receive the crown of life.

## Stage 3: Application    How should I respond?

- Praise** God that he is holy and has promised eternal life.
- Repent** from evil desires that tempt us to sin against God.
- Ask** God to change our evil desires to his desires.
- Ask** God to help us to resist temptation, especially the temptation to turn away from our faith and love for Jesus when we experience trials.

## Share your Study with other People

- Keeps you on track, helps you to continue moving forward.
- Keeps you from making wrong interpretations & applications.
- Fosters discussion, confession, repentance, encouragement, and mutual edification.
- Shows you that studying is challenging for other people as well.
- Enables you to share the joy of discovery together.

# To Do This Week

Read Chapter 9 + Conclusion

Answer Questions for Chapter 9 + Conclusion

Practice C.I.A. on James 1:16-18

Come ready to share a truth or point of application from your study of James.

# Groups

Discuss Questions for Chapter 8

Pray together based on the passage we studied

If you have time:

Share about your experience studying James on your own so far.