

Test the Quality of Faith

James 1:9-12

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- But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

James 1:9-12

Blessed is the 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.



Test the Quality of Faith

- Do I really believe the words of Jesus?
- Do I really believe that there is life beyond the present?

The words of Jesus

- Matt. 5:3: Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- Matt. 6:19-22, 24: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal. But where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

The words of Jesus

- No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- Matt. 10:38-39: *And he who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for my sake will find it.*

The words of Jesus

- Matt. 16:24-26: If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will man give in exchange for his soul?

The words of Jesus

- Matt. 19:20-22: The young man said to him, “All these things I have kept what am I lacking?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come, follow me.” But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving for he was one who owned much property.

The words of Jesus

- Matt. 19:23-24: Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Matt. 23:11-12: But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

The words of Jesus

- What am I pursuing to find contentment or satisfaction?
- When I make choices, what is the controlling factor?
- What am I encouraging my children to pursue? Why?
- Can I walk away from my comfort to follow Jesus?
- Am I really trusting God to supply my daily need? Or am I really trying to be self-sufficient?

Life beyond the present

- Hope must transcend the present for true righteousness and justice to prevail
- Hope must be a motivation for committed Christian service
1 Cor. 15:58
- Hope is the fuel for endurance through the tests and tempests of life