

JESUS STRONG!

Strong in Trials!

James 1:9-18

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 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.

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. 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.

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth,
that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

To a fish, life is “see a fly”,
want a fly, eat a fly.”

The fish are just a collection of appetites. A fish is a
stomach,
a mouth, and a pair of eyes.

While we were on the water. I was struck by how dumb
the fish are.

“Hey swallow this. It’s not the real thing. It’s just a lure.
You’ll think it will feed you, but it won’t. It’ll trap you. If
you were to look closely, fish, you would see the hook.
You’d know once you were hooked that it’s just
a matter of time before
the enemy reels you in.

1. Get perspective – Victory through humility

Let the lowly brother boast
in his exaltation... James 1:9

And the rich in his humiliation
(10)

...because like a flower of the grass

he will pass away
(10)

For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its' beauty perishes.
So also the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.
(11)

“the lowly” – in relation to the things of earth
“the rich” – in relation to the things
of earth

“boast” – to see God’s work and
His perspective whether I have little or much.

Thus says the Lord, “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord...
Jer. 9:23-24

Our lives are brief –
All flesh is grass... the grass withers... surely the people are grass... but the Word of our God will stand forever.
Isa. 40:6-7

My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

Psalm 102:11

Our external accomplishments
do not bring spiritual strength!
Humility is the key to victory!

Keep watch on yourself, lest you too,
be tempted. Gal. 6:1

... whoever humbles himself
will be exalted. Matt. 23:12

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
James. 4:6

“The young believer must understand that he has no power of his own to maintain his spiritual life. No, he needs each day to receive new grace from heaven through fellowship with the Lord Jesus. This cannot be obtained by a hasty prayer, or superficial reading of a few verses from God’s Word. He must take time quietly and deliberately to come into God’s presence, to feel his weakness and his need, and to wait upon God through His Holy Spirit to renew the heavenly light and

life in his heart. Then he may rightly expect to be kept by the power of Christ throughout all the day and all its temptations.”

Andrew Murray

2. Persevere!

Love Him more than anything!

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial.

James 1:12

“Blessed” – inner joy from the Lord – Know He is “for you”

“Steadfast” – to stand firm –

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Eph. 6:10

... for when he stood the test – he will receive the crown of life.

“the crown” – athletic wreath; champion; victorious; approval and honor from the king.

. Crown of boasting or exultation

It is people we reached for Jesus.

1 Thess. 2:19

. Crown of righteousness –
to love His appearing. 2 Tim. 4:8

. Crown of glory –
Share in HIS glory, not our glory
1 Peter 5:4

Not us – but Jesus in us!
He who is in you is greater than
he who is in the world. 1 Jn. 4:4

... which God has promised to those who love Him.
Though you have not seen Him
you love Him.
1 Peter 1:8

Every step toward sin
is a “love” issue.
Every step away from sin
is a “love” issue.

3. Be alert to the pitfalls

Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted
by God.
James 1:13

When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against
the Lord. Prov. 19:3

For God cannot be tempted
with evil ...
... and He Himself tempts no one.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability but with the temptation He will also provide the way to escape,
that you may be able to endure it.
1 Cor. 10:13

"Lord's Prayer"
Lead us not into temptation...
... the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials.
2 Peter 2:9

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed
by his own desire. (14)

Then desire when it has conceived
gives birth to sin (15)

Abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:11

It is not a sin to be tempted - Jesus was tempted. Heb. 4:15

And sin when it is fully gown brings forth death.

Spiritual death – separation from God

For the wages of sin is death... Rom 6:23

There is a way, that seems right to a man but its end is death. Prov. 14:12

Right response – Victory in Jesus!

Wrong Response - Destruction

Do not be deceived,
my beloved brothers.

Satan says – Sin is ok

- No consequences
- It's not your fault
- who cares what you do?
- God made you this way
- God will forgive you

Don't think you can play with the bait and escape the hook.

The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust. Prov. 11:6

4. Trust God's perfect gifts

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above (1:17)

... coming down from the Father of lights

... with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change

God's character does not change

God's attributes do not change

God's promises do not diminish over time

Of His own will, He brought us forth by the Word of truth.

(1:18)

So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ. Rom. 10:17

... that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures

I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not
sin against you.

Ps. 119:11