

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. James 1:12-18 (NLT2)

Endure Testing And Temptation

How will you be able to endure testing and temptation? What makes you even want to endure testing and temptation? Why do you not easily and simply give up to testing and give in to temptation? What motivates your desire to not let sin grow in you? Those are all very good questions. I have but one answer. **I'm listening.** I know that I am one of your prized possessions. I know that you love and care for me. I know that every good and perfect gift comes from you. **Yes, all of this is true.** Because you first loved me, I now love you. I don't love you just a little bit. I love you with all that is within me. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Because I love you, I want to live a life that is good and right and pleasing to you. I am fully devoted to you. Does this mean that I live a perfect life? Does this mean that I never sin? Certainly not. But with a heart full of desire, I want to live the life that you have called me to live. **That is very good.**

Since you love me and since you are fully devoted to me, what actions steps do you take so that you will be able to patiently endure testing and temptation? Well, I will tell you one thing. **What's that?** I run from temptation whenever I see it approaching. I don't linger around evil. I don't knowingly let evil desires entice me and drag me into temptation that will cause me to sin. When evil approaches, I run from it and run to you. I submit myself to you, I draw near to you and then evil does flee from me. **Yes, it does, yes it will, as you draw near to me and I draw near to you.**

But I have given you another tool, and very good gift, that will help you to patiently endure testing and temptation. Tell me what that tool is and what you do with it? You have given me your word. Your word is a very good gift. Your word is a tool that is changing my heart, transforming my mind and guiding my life. Your word is making me able to patiently endure testing and temptation. Your word is making me able to stand against evil. Your word is molding and shaping my life and helping me to live the life you have called me to live. **Yes, my word is doing all these things in you, for you, and through you. Keep on patiently enduring testing and temptation and then you will receive the crown of life because I know that you love me.** Yes, I will. Thank you, Lord.

Heavenly Father, I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Help me to endure testing and temptation. Help me to receive the crown of life and all the very good gifts you have for me. Help me to take your life-giving word deep within me. Amen

Promises

First Fruits

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. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

NIV

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Fruits

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.

ESV

James 1:12-18

Promises

His Prized Possession

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

NLT

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Fruits

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

NKJV

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Fruits

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved. Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

NRSV

James 1:12-18

Promises

Crown Of All His Creatures

Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life. Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up." God is imperious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer. So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

MSG

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Fruits

Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who is patient under trial *and* stands up under temptation, for when he has stood the test *and* been approved, he will receive [the victor's] crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one. But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed *and* baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions). Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death. Do not be misled, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse]. And it was of His own [free] will that He gave us birth [as sons] by [His] Word of Truth, so that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures [a sample of what He created to be consecrated to Himself].

AMP

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Children In His New Family

Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him. And remember, when someone wants to do wrong it is never God who is tempting him, for God never wants to do wrong and never tempts anyone else to do it. Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God. So don't be misled, dear brothers. But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow. And it was a happy day for him when he gave us our new lives through the truth of his Word, and we became, as it were, the first children in his new family.

TLB

James 1:12-18

Promises

First Fruits

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. 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. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

NASB

James 1:12-18

Promises

Most Important Of All Things

When people are tempted and still continue strong, they should be happy. After they have proved their faith, God will reward them with life forever. God promised this to all those who love him. When people are tempted, they should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God, and God himself does not tempt anyone. But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them. This desire leads to sin, and then the sin grows and brings death. My dear brothers and sisters, do not be fooled about this. Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows. God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made. Jam

NCV

James 1:12-18

His Prized Possession

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – James 1:12-18

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. James 1:12-18 (NLT)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

God blesses those | who patiently endure testing | and temptation. | Afterward they will receive | the crown of life | that God | has promised | to those | who love him. | And remember, | when you are being tempted, | do not say, | "God is tempting me." | God is never tempted | to do wrong, | and he never tempts | anyone else. | Temptation comes from | our own desires, | which entice us | and | drag us away. | These desires | give birth to sinful actions. | And when sin | is allowed to grow, | it gives birth to death. | So don't be misled, | my dear brothers and sisters. | Whatever is good and perfect | comes down to us | from God our Father, | who created all the lights | in the heavens. | He never changes | or | casts a shifting shadow. | He chose to give birth to us | by giving us | his true word. | And we, | out of all creation, | became his | prized possession. James 1:12-18 (NLT)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Help me to endure testing and temptation. Help me to receive the crown of life and all the very good gifts you have for me. Help me to take your life-giving word deep within me. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is your love for God making you able to patiently endure testing and temptation?

How are you carefully making sure that your own desires do not cause you to be tempted?

How are you taking action to remove yourself from situations that will tempt you to sin?

How are you making sure that sin is not being allowed to grow in your own life?

How is taking God's word deep into your heart, mind and life helping you to endure testing and temptation?

Why will giving into temptation and engaging in sin be sure to bring death into your life?

How encouraged are you to know that you are one of God's prized possession?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow your love for God to help you to patiently endure testing and temptation so you can receive the crown of life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will help you to patiently endure testing and temptation.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God has helped you to patiently endure testing and temptation.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your love for God make you able to patiently endure testing and temptation.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I will allow my love for you to help me to patiently endure testing and temptation.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how will my love for you and yours for me help me to endure testing and temptation today?
