

The Book of James:
Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times
Week Two: February 25, 2024

How do you face hard times in life?

A. You are NOT alone when you face tests in life.

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. (James 1:12)

1. “Blessed is the one...”
2. “... receive the crown of life.”

B. God empowers you when temptations come your way.

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 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 will fade away even while they go about their business. (James 1:9-11)

1. The hook of human weakness.
2. The hook of human strength.
3. **FOUR stages sin can overtake us.**

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:13-15)

a. Sin starts in our thoughts.

“... be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” (Romans 12:2)

b. Sin moves us to action.

c. Sin produces a character.

d. Sin leads to a destiny.

C. God gives you good gifts during tests, trials, and temptations.

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 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. (James 1:16-18)

1. God gives us the gift of godly wisdom.

2. God gives us the gift of God's character.

3. God gives us the gift of being born again.

Confess your sins for He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the lures you have faced in your life? How have you dealt with the lures?
2. What are your thoughts on the four stages of sin? Do you agree or disagree?
3. Have you experienced God's good gifts during your tests, trials, and/or temptations? Share a story.

News and Notes

March 3, Annual Business General Meeting. Combined service @ 10am. Lunch. ACBM.

March 10 + 17, Baptismal Class. Sign up ONLINE or at the back table.

June 2, 75th Anniversary Sunday (save the date)

Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon.

Baptismal Sign Up Here:

