

James 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Analysis

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Blessed (makarios, μακάριος) is the one who endures (hypomenei, ὑπομένει) trial. The crown (stephanos, στέφανος) of life recalls athletic wreaths and royal honors, symbolizing eschatological reward promised to those who love God. James ties perseverance to affection—not stoic grit but covenant love that perseveres because Christ first loved us.

The promise parallels Revelation 2:10 and Paul's assurance in 2 Timothy 4:8. Reformed believers affirm that perseverance is evidence of genuine faith; those kept by God's power continue loving Him amid tests. Trials thus become opportunities to display love and anticipate the crown secured by Christ.

Historical Context

This blessing would have comforted believers facing imprisonment or martyrdom. James, writing before widespread imperial persecution, nonetheless saw how Jewish authorities harassed the church. His words resonate with Paul's teaching that suffering produces hope and with Jesus' beatitudes.

The diaspora context meant believers longed for vindication; James assures them

that steadfast love for God amid hardship will be honored at Christ's appearing, reinforcing apostolic unity on perseverance.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does love for God motivate you to endure current trials?
2. What practices keep your eyes on the promised crown rather than present pain?
3. Who around you needs encouragement to persevere in love?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Μακάριος | ἄνθρωπος | ὃν | ὑπομένει | πειρασμόν | ὅτι |
| Blessed | is the man | that | endureth | temptation | for |
| G3107 | G435 | G3739 | G5278 | G3986 | G3754 |
| δόκιμος | γενόμενος | λήψεται | τὸν | στέφανον | τῆς |
| when he is tried | | he shall receive | | the crown | |
| G1384 | G1096 | G2983 | G3588 | G4735 | G3588 |
| ζωῆς | ὃν | ἐπηγγείλατο | ὁ | Κύριος | τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν |
| of life | that | hath promised | | the Lord | to them that love |
| G2222 | G3739 | G1861 | G3588 | G2962 | G25 |
| αὐτόν | | | | | |
| him | | | | | |
| G846 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

James 5:11 (References Lord): Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Romans 8:28 (Love): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (Parallel theme): And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

2 Timothy 4:8 (Love): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

James 2:5 (Love): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

1 Peter 5:4 (Parallel theme): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.