

James 1:9-12

9-11. "Let the **LOWLY BROTHER** glory in his **EXALTATION**, but the rich in his **humiliation**, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits."

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24** ".....Let not the wise man _____ in his wisdom; let not the mighty man glory (boast) in his might; let not the _____ man glory in his _____ but let him that _____ glory in this, that he understands and _____ Me, that I am the _____ who exercises loving kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the _____."
- **Read Luke 16:19-31** (Verse 19) "There was a certain _____ man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day." (Verse 22) "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the _____ to Abraham's bosom. The _____ man also _____ and was buried. And being in _____ in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
- **Read Luke 12:15-21** (Verse 20) "But _____ said to him (the rich man), 'You _____! This night your _____ will be required of you (you will die); then _____ will those _____ be which you have provided?'"
- **Job 14:1-2** "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a _____ he comes forth and _____. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain."
- **Psalms 90:5-6** "You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like _____ which grows up; in the evening it is cut down and _____."
- **Psalms 103:14-16** "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are _____. As for man, his days are like _____; as a _____ of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

Definition: "Let the **LOWLY BROTHER** glory in his **EXALTATION**" - Though a Christian "brother" comes from lowly circumstances or a humble background in the world's eyes (such as Lazarus the beggar, in Luke 16), yet in God's kingdom that humble one will "inherit the earth" and be **EXALTED (lifted up, made great), and will be seated on the throne with Jesus Himself**. Whatever position we have in this life, whether rich or poor, influential and powerful, or a lowly beggar, it is only for a short time (like a flower that withers and dries up) compared to what God has planned for all eternity for those who love Him.

- **Mark 10:42-45** "But _____ called them to Himself and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered _____ over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their _____ ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall _____ be so among you; but whoever desires to become _____ among you shall be your _____. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be _____ of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to _____, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"
- **Matthew 5:5** "_____ are the meek (lowly, humble), for they shall _____ the _____."
- **Matthew 18:4** "Therefore whoever _____ himself as this little child is the _____ in the kingdom of _____."

- **Luke 14:11** "For whoever _____ himself will be abased (made low), and he who _____ himself will be _____."

Definition: "But the RICH in his HUMILIATION" - In this context, "humiliation" means **being made HUMBLE or made low**. James is speaking to "brothers", so he means **a RICH man who is a Christian** brother. The Christian who is wealthy or well-off financially **should not be PROUD** or glory in his riches, but should humbly depend on God, and **use his riches for God's glory** in expanding His kingdom.

- **I Peter 5:5-6** "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, _____ of you be submissive to _____, and be clothed with _____, for 'God resists the _____, but gives grace to the _____.' Therefore _____ yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may _____ you in due time."
- **Matthew 23:11-12** "But he who is _____ among you shall be your servant. And whoever _____ himself will be abased (made low), and he who _____ himself will be _____."

12. "Blessed is the man who ENDURES TEMPTATION; for when he has been PROVED, he will receive the CROWN of LIFE which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

- **Isaiah 48:10** "Behold, I have _____ you, but not as _____; I have _____ you in the furnace of _____."
- **Job 23:10** "But He knows the way I take; when He has _____ me, I shall come forth as _____."
- **Job 5:17** "Behold, _____ is the man whom God _____; therefore do not despise the chastening (discipline) of the _____."
- **Proverbs 3:11-12** "My son, do not despise the _____ of the Lord, nor detest His _____; for whom the Lord _____ He _____, just as a father the son in whom he delights."
- **I Corinthians 10:13** "No _____ has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but _____ is _____, who will not _____ you to be _____ beyond what you are able, but with the _____ will also make the _____ of _____, that you may be able to bear it."

Definition: "Blessed is the man who ENDURES TEMPTATION" - The word "temptation" in this context means **testing**, although resisting the temptation to sin can be a part of our testing that God allows in our lives. Usually, these times of "testing" include going through trials, tribulations, afflictions, and sometimes persecution or sickness. **Even Jesus was tempted by Satan**, but He did not give in to the temptation, so He did not sin in any way. Jesus was the sinless Son of God - He was not being **tested by the devil** because of any sin in His life. There are times when we must go through some kind of testing or trials, the "storms of life" so to speak, but it is not necessarily because there is some sin God is purging out of our lives. Some testings are just to teach us obedience and to trust in and depend on our Lord no matter what. They are to prepare us for service, a training course or "boot camp", as we become "soldiers of Christ". Even Jesus, God in the flesh, had to be "perfected" **through suffering in order to learn obedience**, because these were things He could not learn in the perfect environment of heaven (see Phil. 2:8).

- **Matthew 4:1-3** "Then _____ was _____ up _____ the _____ into the wilderness to be _____ by the _____. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He _____."

was hungry. Now when the _____ came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

- **Luke 4:1** "Then _____, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was _____ by the _____ into the wilderness."
- **Hebrews 5:8-9** "Though He was a Son, yet He LEARNED _____ by the things which He _____. And having been _____, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."
- **Hebrews 2:10** "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the _____ of their salvation (that's Jesus) _____ through _____."

Definition: "I have REFINED you, but not as SILVER" and "when He has TRIED me, I shall come forth as GOLD" - God uses testings, trials, and afflictions as a refiner of silver and gold uses a furnace. The gold or silver ore is heated over a high flame until it melts, and the impurities run off or can be scooped off, and then the pure gold or silver remains. God will use the "flames of affliction" to burn off the impurities and sins in our lives, until we shine as pure gold and silver.

- **Malachi 3:2-3** "But who can endure the day of His _____? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's _____ and like fuller's soap. And He will sit as a refiner (smelter) and purifier of _____, and He will _____ the sons of Levi and refine them like _____ and _____, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness."

Definition: "He will sit as a REFINER and PURIFIER of SILVER" - Here is a short story (author unknown): "This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - **when I see my IMAGE in it.**"

- **Romans 8:29** "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be _____ to the _____ of His _____, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- **Proverbs 17:3** "The refining pot is for _____ and the _____ for _____, but the Lord tests the _____."

Definition: "For when he has been PROVED" - Read Job 1:1, 6-12 & 22; 2:3-10 to see how God allowed Satan to challenge Him over the integrity of one of His servants, a man named Job. **Satan had to ask permission, and God put limits** on what he could and could not do to Job. The test was **to PROVE** whether Job would remain faithful to God, no matter what happened to him.

- **Luke 22:31-32** "And the _____ said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, _____ has _____ for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have _____ for you, that your _____ should not _____; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." **Definitions: "The CHASTENING of the LORD" - Chastening means discipline or correction**, as one would discipline or spank a child in order to **CORRECT the child's behavior**. Our loving heavenly Father sometimes must take His children "to the woodshed for a spanking" for our correction when we are continuing in sin.
- **Hebrews 12:7-11** "If you endure _____, God deals with you as with _____; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who _____ us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of (our) spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days _____ us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit (good), that we may be partakers of His _____. Now _____ chastening seems to be _____ for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, _____ it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been _____ by it."

Definition: "He will RECEIVE the CROWN of LIFE" - This is NOT talking about the gift of eternal life. We do NOT EARN our salvation/eternal life by going through trials and sufferings. This is talking about **receiving REWARDS when we get to heaven**. For more about rewards when we get to heaven, see I Corinthians 3:10-16. Jesus said we should lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven, and these different types of crowns seem to be part of that heavenly treasure and reward (Matthew 6:19-21).

- **Revelation 3:11** "Behold, I come _____! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your _____."
- **Revelation 4:4** "Around the _____ were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white _____; and they had _____ of _____ on their heads."
- **Revelation 4:9-10** "Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the _____, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and _____ Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their _____ before the throne....."
- **II Timothy 4:8** "Finally, there is laid up for _____ the _____ of _____, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to _____ only, but also to all who have _____ His appearing."
- **I Peter 5:4** "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will _____ the _____ of _____ that does not fade away."