



LESSON 3 - JAMES 1:9-11 (STUDENT)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read verses 9-11. Who is being commanded, and what are they being commanded to do?
3. We learned last week that the "tested" believer needs wisdom from God. Trials can create struggles and it will require God-given wisdom to resolve them. Verses 9-11 is yet another nugget of spiritual truth that a "tested" believer needs to know, understand, and apply. To begin this section, who is the lowly brother (Acts 2:45; 4:35) and what is his attitude to be during trial according to verse 9?
4. What are some humble circumstances that people find themselves in? What are some humble circumstances you find yourself in right now?
5. What does it mean to "glory" (kauchastho-2744) in humble circumstances? Look up this word in a concordance or Bible Dictionary.

6. How is it possible for a Christian to glory in her humble circumstances?

7. The poor believer may be looked down upon by the world and considered to be "a nobody." Instead of resenting one's poverty and being discontented over his or her circumstance, what should motivate this lowly believer to "consider it all joy" when he or she faces various trials? Fill in the chart below and note your high position before God in Christ.

This you know	My high position before God
Eph. 1:3	I
Eph. 1:4	I
Eph. 1:5	I
Eph. 1:8	I
Eph. 1:9	I
Eph. 1:11	I
Eph. 1:13	I
Eph. 2:10	I
Col. 3:12-13	I
1 Pet. 1:3-4	I
1 Pet. 2:5, 9	I

8. In contrast to the brother in lowly circumstances, what other class of believer is James addressing?

9. Look up and define the word rich (*pluosios*-4145). What does James have in mind?

10. How does James admonish him in verse 10? What attitude should he adopt?

11. Look up and define the word "humiliation" (*tapeinosis*-5014) in Strong's Concordance.

12. The idea that James has is the rich believer's worth is recognized apart from his social position. So James is trying to encourage him to foster a lowly mindedness which looks beyond the material to the eternal. Why do you think this attitude would be important for a rich believer to adopt in facing various trials (Isaiah 40:6-8)?

13. In the same way a flower passes away, so too a rich man will fade away as he goes about his business. James is strongly reminding the rich believer that permanence is not to be found in the material things of this world. Read Luke

12:13-31. What is the danger of holding too tightly to the earthly treasures God has blessed us with? What treasure are we to seek instead?

14. Who is an example of one who chose faith and trust in God verses the attractive but temporary pleasures of sin? What did he consider greater than all the treasures of Egypt? What future inheritance was he anticipating instead (Hebrews 11:24-26)?

15. How does this give you hope when you face trials (Matthew 25:34; 2 Corinthians 4:17)?

16. Trials remind the poor that they are rich in the Lord and can lose nothing. Trials also remind the rich that they dare not live for riches or trust in them. Either way, when we are in a trial we can often slip and lose our confidence in the Lord's goodness to us. Read Psalm 73. How do we guard against this? What heart attitudes do we need to watch out for, and repent of?

a. What heart attitude can we succumb to if we he began to covet and compare our lives to the unbelieving world (v. 3)? What can dull our eternal perspective (vv. 21, 23)?

- b. Why is it that the prosperity of the wicked can be so troublesome to a believer (4-12)?

- c. When we place value on the prosperity of the wicked, what can we become confused about (vv.13-14)?

- d. How can we overcome our doubts? Where does it begin (vv. 15-20)?

- e. What is the present reality for every believer rich or poor, in times of trial and prosperity? What should our view of God be? What should our ultimate desire be (vv. 23-28)?

APPLICATION

17. As you experience trial; are you glorying in your humble circumstances? Do you see your worth separate from the world? Are you fostering a mindset that looks beyond the material to the eternal?

- a. How can you remind yourself to be rich in God and not get distracted by the deceitfulness of riches?

b. What unbiblical thinking and behavior are you seeing in yourself?

c. What changes will you make as a result of what you learned in this lesson?



A Child of the King

"A tent or cottage, why should I care?
They're building a palace for me over there;
Tho' exiled from home, yet, still I may sing:
All glory to God, I'm a child of the King."

(Hattie E. Buell, 1877)

