The Battlefield
James 1:12-16

Sermon Outline

A. The Battle (vs. 12-13):

1. **Blessed** – To be blessed is to become full of the Spirit as a result of going through persecution and coming out spiritually mature (James 1:2-4).

2. **Blessed** – To be blessed is when a person feels satisfied within despite all the difficult circumstances that are taking place around them.
   a) Trials can have great maturing benefits (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 3:14):
   b) Trials lead to spiritual maturity, so we learn to rest in God (Matthew 11:28-30).
   c) Paul gained contentment (Philippians 3:10; 4:11).
   d) Paul learn to live a life not controlled by anxiety (Philippians 4:4-6).
   e) It leads to favor from God (James 2:26).

3. **Perseveres** – This believer can preserve because they have been perfect, complete lacking nothing.

4. **Perseveres** – This is a person who does not lose their hope in the midst of difficult issues.

5. **Perseveres** – When a believer’s faith sustains under persecution, patiently trusting God they end up preserving under trials.
   a) This is to remain in God’s Word in the midst of distress – view it as our refuge and strength our present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1 – Joseph; Isaiah 55:10-11).
   b) To not move until God says so (Psalm 37:7).
c) In the midst of distress exercise patience based on the direction from God’s Word (Psalm 119:105).

d) This is necessary because Satan is going to heaven day and night (Revelation 12:10).

e) Resting in God allows God to fight for us (Romans 8:28, 31, 37-39).

f) Be still (Psalm 37:7; 46:10); all things work together for the good – those who love Him (Romans 8:28); wait on the Lord (Isaiah 41:28-31).

6. Under trial - The Spirit of God makes a believer satisfied and prosperous spiritually when God test their faith and they remain faithful to His Word.

   a) Gen. 22:1 – For God does not tempt. Satan tempts us (1 Corinthians 7:5) in order to make us fall; God test us in order to confirm our faith (Exodus 20:20) or prove our commitment (Deuteronomy 8:2).

7. Under trial - When God brings a person through adversity He proves their faith and confidence in them.

8. Once he has been approved - When a believer is tested and during the trial they continue in their faith they prove their authenticity. When an object that looks like diamond is used to cut glass and it does it proves that it is a diamond.

9. Receive – When a believer proves the authenticity of their faith they can rest assured that the crown God provides is guaranteed.

10. Crown of life – When a believer prove the authenticity of their faith they experience a greater level of spiritual maturity that allows them to walk more in the Spirit than in the flesh. This is what Paul describes as being drunk in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-20). “The struggle is the way to glory, and the very struggle itself is a glory.” At the Beamer Seat these believers receive the ‘Crown of Life.’ (Revelation 2:10; 1 Peter 5:4).

   a) This “crown” consists of life, that is, the crown is life (cf. Revelation 2:10). “The life which is promised is probably life here and now, life in its fullness, life in its completeness” (cf. James 1:4) (Curtis Vaughan, James: Bible Study Commentary, p. 28). (Other crowns are referred to in 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4.)

   • A statement of God’s blessing and God’s favor.
   • The crown of the Christian is a new kind of living which is life indeed.
• We enter into life and life abundantly (John 10:10; Galatians 5:22-25).
• Like Abraham we become God’s friend (John 15:13-15).
• Paul attained this life (Galatians 2:20; Phil. 1:21).
• In this life we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).
• We live blessed (Ephesians 3:18-21).
• Living in the eschatological joy of the new age – heaven

b) The Bible describes the believer’s reward (2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:12) under various vivid images such as precious metals (1 Corinthians 3:8–14), garments (Revelation 3:5, 18; 19:7, 8), and crowns (1 Corinthians 9:25; Revelation 2:10; 3:11).[13]

11. Has promised – God does not pledge the Crown of Life. He says that this is a covenantal commitment.

12. Those who love Him – The covenantal commitment is fulfilled for those who continually demonstrate a sacrificial commitment to obey God’s will under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

13. Tell, speak – No one should continuously keep speaking what is not true.

14. When he is tempt – When a person, who has not purposed in themselves to sin is being continually solicited to willfully disobey God’s Word it is not a testing that is coming from God.

15. God cannot be tempted – God cannot continuously put before a believer anything that is unholy.

16. Tempt anyone by evil – God cannot use anything or anyone that is maliciously wicked or destructive.

17. God does not tempt anyone - God does not continuously seek to cause a believer to do what violates His Word. NO one is correct if they say that God gave them a sinful desire so it must be okay to sin.

B. The Enemy Within (14-15):

1. Each one is tempted — Each believer is stimulated to violate the will of God on a continuous basis.
a) Everyone is moved to follow their feelings not the will of God (Genesis 3:2, 6-7). They eye (Matthew 6:22-23); the tongue (James 3:1-12); the flesh (5 senses – Romans 6:12-14); the old way the mind thinks (Ephesians 4:17-24).

2. **When they are carried away** – Believers continuously place themselves in a position to sin when their lack of self-restraint drag them away, like a fish being lured, to obey desires that violates the Word of God (2 Peter 2:14, 18; Romans 6:6-7, 12; 7:14-20).

3. **Enticed** – A believer is continuously enticed just like a fish seeing a lure and deciding to leave its path and go to it. The same way a believer is dragged away by his lack of self-restraint when attracted to sin because of his own lust.

4. **Own lustful** – Lust is to possess a desire to seek something that God’s Word forbids.

5. **Own lustful** – This is a strong mental and emotional desire that a believer may possess that comes out in willful actions that violate the will of God.

6. **When lust** – This is when a strong passionate desire is actively driving the believer to violate what God’s Word says is forbidden.

7. **Has conceived** – This is when a passionate desire, that violates God’s Word, seizes a believer like a cancer cell growing on someone’s Liver.

8. **It gives birth to sin** – The passionate desire to constantly violate God’s Word seizes a believer it effectively grows to produce willful acts that is not in touch with God’s Word.

9. **Sin** – This is an intentional act to purposefully disobey God’s Word (James 4:17).

10. **When sin** – Sin takes place when the very nature of sin is now in control (Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5).

11. **It is accomplished** – When the desire to do good is totally gone and a person is complicit sin is full grown in the believers life (example David and Bathsheba).

   a) Full-grown suggests bringing a goal to completion. The idea here is that sin has reached its maturity and has possessed the very character of the individual. Death here refers to physical death (Prov. 10:27; 11:19; Rom. 8:13). [iii]

12. **Brings forth death** – When sin is full grown it brings forth spiritual death (Romans 6:23) and it can produce physical death (1 John 5:16-17).
C. Maintain Truth (vs. 16):

1. **Do not be deceived** – Believers must emphatically not allow themselves to be seduced into believing an error.

   a) Namely in this matter of temptation, as if you could in some way shift the blame onto God. The *verb may be middle, and the present imperative with μή may give it the meaning: “Stop deceiving yourselves!”* The loving address reveals the earnest solicitude of James.[4]

2. **Do not be deceived** – Believers must emphatically not allow themselves wonder away from the truth because they have allowed themselves to develop the wrong view of how God views temptation.

3. **My beloved** – James sincerely loves the people he is writing to and want the best for them.

4. **My beloved** – This is all written because their pastor loves them.

5. **Brethren** – These believers were a community of believers that James still relates to and cares for.

6. **Beloved brethren** – They are loved and must continue to love each other.

7. **Beloved brethren** – A loving community strengthens each other (John 14:34-35).

8. **Beloved brethren** – Speaking the truth in love grows everyone up (Ephesians 4:14-15).

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