

## THE WAY TO CONQUER TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS

James 1:5-12

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Trials and temptations are common to everyone: pain, death, hurt, sickness, greed, lust, disease, separation, accidents, divorce, disappointments, loneliness, loss, immorality, anger, emptiness, lying, etc. How does a person fight these things, and better yet, how can a person overcome such things in life?

### I. THE BELIEVER MUST ASK WISDOM OF GOD IN ORDER TO BE VICTORIOUS

- Wisdom is far more than just knowledge (knowing).
  - Knowledge is grasping the facts.
  - Wisdom grasps the great truths of life, knows what to do and then does it.
1. When the believer asks God for wisdom:
    - God will give wisdom and plenty of it.
    - God will not scold any of His children for asking.
    - God loves His children.
    - Matthew 7:24; Luke 21:15; Romans 11:33; 2 Timothy 3:15; Proverbs 3:13-14
  2. The believer has the responsibility to DO something:
    - He/she must ask in faith and not waver.
    - He/she cannot doubt:
      - By wondering if God really exists.
      - By wondering if God is really going to hear.
      - By wondering if his/her request is in God's will.
    - God will not reward doubt with an answered prayer.
    - Matthew 13:58; Mark 4:40; Luke 16:13; Hebrews 4:11

### II. THE BELIEVER MUST BE HAPPY IN HIS/HER STATUS IN LIFE

1. If in a lowly status, the believer is still to be happy and rejoice.
  - NOT because of the status, but because of his/her relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - Christ has promised to exalt the lowly person.
    - Luke 19:17; 22:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 1:5-6; Psalm 91:14
  - Not to become bitter or allow circumstances to cause a sense of being inferior.
2. If in a rich status, the believer is to rejoice.
  - NOT because of what he/she has or who he/she is.
  - Status and wealth mean NOTHING to God.
  - The rich are no better off than the poorest in God's sight.
  - All stand before God as equals.
  - The rich are to rejoice because they are to help meet the needs of the poor with all that they have and all who they are.
    - James 4:14; 1 Peter 1:24; Isaiah 40:6-7; Psalm 39:5; 103:14-16

### **III. THE BELIEVER MUST REMEMBER THE REWARDS**

1. The believer's life will be blessed:
  - Spiritual joy and satisfaction during his/her life here.
  - Satisfaction of security because God is looking after him/her.
  - Luke 6:48; James 5:11; Job 17:9
  
2. The believer will receive a Crown of Life:
  - A life that will go on, never ending.
  - A life filled with unbroken joy and rejoicing.
  - A life made into the image of Christ, Himself.
  - John 14:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 1 John 2:25
  
3. The believer who loves the Lord will endure the temptations and trials.
  - He/she will be faithful and obedient, doing all the Lord commands.
  - He/she will follow the Lord, never quitting, not matter how difficult.
  - Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 1:13; John 14:21; 15:10

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. True, genuine salvation produces determination to last, hang on, to be obedient, to never quit trying to be like the Lord Jesus.
  
2. What the believer lacks, God will supply abundantly and quickly when asked to do so in faith.
  
3. The believer is to be satisfied in whatever status he/she happens to be in life and to be quick to share with those in a lower status.
  
4. The believer is to remember what awaits him/her when his/her life is over.