

**James 1:12, “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.”**

How to remember the reference:

Chapter “1” – I will endure temptation of my faith. “I” am one person.

Verse “12” – The temptations of your faith can come at any time and at any frequency, 12 months out of the year.

The temptation in this verse does not refer ones temptation to sin but refers to the temptation of our faith. When trails and afflictions come our way, our faith is tested. We choose whether we become angry or bitter, or we choose to run to Him and surrender to His will.

Matthew 11:6, “And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.”  
You will never find peace and happiness as long as you are mad or bitter towards God.

Our attitude towards temptations of our faith is the key to the speed at which our faith grows. Much like ‘miracle grow’ plant food will help a vegetable plant grow and produce to its potential, temptations of our faith help our faith blossom and grow in leaps and bounds if we allow God to have His way in our hearts.

I Peter 1:6-9 & 4:10 talk about the manifold temptations. You won’t face a temptation of your faith and then you are done. It is a lifelong process and many faith temptations will come your way. The devil will fight you in an attempt to get you to doubt God and lose faith. Yet at the end of each victory, your faith grows stronger and the devil loses more arguments in your mind. You find yourself telling him that you refuse to listen to his lies and to get behind you. You run to God in the midst of the temptation and find His manifold grace to hold you up and strengthen you.

Here are some thoughts concerning the battle of our faith:

- 1) Happiness is just around the corner. James 1:12, “Blessed is the man....”  
Hebrews 12:11, “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yeildeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”
- 2) Trails of your faith can come frequently. Hebrews 12:11, “...which are exercised thereby.” Our trials make us spiritually lean; ready for His service much like frequent exercise keeps the body healthy.
- 3) The battle process is more valuable in God’s eyes than precious gold. Therefore we should work on our attitude so that we might view them as God does.  
I Peter 1:7, “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

As I am writing this my mind is singing Philippians 2:14. Oh Lord, help me not to complain or murmur when you send me trials of my faith that is more precious than gold. Help me be thankful.

- 4) Enduring is part of the trail. We want all our problems to go away quickly, yet God calls us to endure. If gold is put quickly in and out of the fire, it would never become refined. It has to stay in the fire until the refining is complete. Trust God with the length of your trial and know that He will hold you up and will never leave your side as you endure. Isaiah 41:13  
James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation..."
- 5) Jesus went through temptations of faith by the evil one. He is not just our example, but He truly understands and has a deep compassion for us.  
I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
- 6) When you feel you are at the end of your strength, take courage and witness His strength take control. Don't give up before God gives you wings to fly, then you truly miss the blessing!  
Isaiah 40:29-31, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."
- 7) When we stay true to God during the trials, we demonstrate and exercise our love and trust towards Him. I believe this pleases God greatly.  
John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
- 8) The reward in heaven is the crown of life. This crown is a prize of high value. That's why enduring through trails of faith are so difficult! Let's desire to earn crowns of treasures that we may lay at the feet of our blessed Savior.  
James 1:12, "...he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."  
Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."