

“Temptations, Trials and the Crown of Life”

James 1:12

Intro:

- “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial... he will receive the crown of life...”

The blessing is confirmed upon the men and women who simply don't quit when they easily could have.

In those two phrases, no instructions are given as to how to persevere; simply a declaration of truth, the recognition of value, and a conferring of a blessing upon those who do indeed persevere.

Perseverance: more than a high value, I want you to get a picture of perseverance as being a “*holy thing*”. **Without which, you will not live effectively the Kingdom life... It is an absolutely necessary ingredient for Kingdom life.**

- Remember who James is writing to –

Verses 1-12, James speaks to that need they had of perseverance straight and direct. “***There are some things you need to know if you are going to persevere.***”

- We've covered four of them:

1st – trials are ***inevitable***.

2nd – trials can ***serve a purpose – they test faith***.

They reveal what is real in faith, and what is false in faith.

3rd – trials ***demand Wisdom***

4th – trials, in ways that nothing else can do, ***reduce you***

5th – The fifth today: You need to know that if you're going to persevere, that **perseverance matters**. And you need to know that ***perseverance matters more than winning***. That perseverance matters more than coming in first.

- There is something to be said for men and women who don't quit. And the “something” that James says is “***Blessed are you.***”

Who are these people that persevere?

#1 They are common:

- People who persevered are common in capacity, appearance, and talent.

#2 They just keep showing up.

- The people who persevere just keep showing up even when they look like they're losing.

#3 They recognize that desperately wanting to quit, and quitting are entirely different things.

- People who persevere understand that failure is not final, and just because they stumble doesn't mean that the race is over for them.

#4 They have abandoned the myth; have abandoned the concept of independent strength.

- One of the things that people who persevere have come to understand long ago ***is they can't make it on their own.***

Application: