

First Southern Baptist Church - May 26, 2021
Two Tests - James 1:9-17

I. Two tests:

1. Rejoice

Brother of low degree (estate - poor)- *rejoice* -v 9

Brother of high degree (estate - rich) - *rejoice* is understood -v 10

The theme of rich and poor is mentioned again at 2:1-7 and 5:1-6 (verse 11 shows the cynical side of James about wealth). The issue is bigger than riches lost/ riches gained... but that is the example. For example - verse 10, he (not material things) shall pass away. Verse 11 - he shall pass away.

Rejoice - “count it all *joy*”

-in that exalted (poor)

-in that he’s brought low (rich)

Rejoice - count it all *joy* (verse 2)

Because - as the flower...

-so also the rich made to fade away

In the middle of all that -

Blessed is he who **endures** trials

(What is the trial?)

Verse 9 - the trial is the change from poor to rich

Verse 10 - the trial is the change from rich to poor

*Endures ! 12 is the same trial as count it all joy in verse 2

When you endure you’ll receive a crown of life

Train of thought - *rejoice* that you are tried

-because when you endure you’ll *receive* a crown (Rea - now that’s something to rejoice about)

Now... when you are tempted don’t say you are tempted of God

-He cannot be tempted

-He tempts no one

So... how are we tempted (tried)?

2. *Trail of temptation (14)

A. Tempted **when** drawn away of lusts - enticed

B. **Then**, that lust conceives

C. **Then**, that conception brings forth sin

D. **Then**, that sin brings forth death Satan enticed Jesus... but he did not sin. So in the trail of temptation... it’s possible to be enticed... and not sin.

3. Note:

1. What tempts us? - our own desires

2. To be tempted is not necessarily sin

4. Good gifts are from God:

- atomic power
- guns... the ability to save life (good) is twisted to bad, the ability to take life
- free will - the ability to change life (good) is twisted to bad... the ability to choose away from God
- pastor's power
- God's creation of the world - created good, turned bad

5. At stake

- A. God's nature - He is good -only
 - it's all good from Him
 - B. He did not tempt you
 - something within you tempted you
 - C. Nature of God = Good
 - Nature of Man = lusting/ sinning
 - Nature of Temptation - lust of the mind, lust of the eyes and the pride of life
 - D. It is the nature of Man to blame God... for his failure... and for temptation
 - example... "this woman **you** gave me, caused me to sin"
- Verse 15 - "conceived" - then sin
"Word" - begat us with Word

6. Train of Thought:

- Rejoice** in trial (verse 2)
 - trail of trial
- Ask** for wisdom (on the trial of trial you need this - wisdom - verse 5)
 - Example** of two trials (here is an example of trials he means - what is the temptation?) - 9-11
 - poor to rich
 - rich to poor
 - Explained...** like the sun on the grass it can change quickly - verse 10
- Endure** the trial -verse 12
- And when** you do endure... you will be **blessed** (may *rejoice*) receive a crown - verse 12
 - Don't say** - God did this - verse 13

7. This helps:

- A. In verse 12 "temptation" and "trial" are used interchangeably
 - B. Trials =
 - affliction
 - sickness
 - burdens
 - temptations
 - *what's the trial... curse God, or turn away from Him.
 - ...to sin against God
- *Job was tempted by trials (example)

- temptations are a type of trial*** (see the interchangeable words in verse 12)
- Jesus was tempted... tried his motives... tried Him as to whether He would follow God and do the right thing
- C. Satan tempts us - God does not (not in the sense of solicitation to sin)
 - Peter, Satan has desired to have you
 - Job is tried after God asked Satan, have you seen my servant Job?
 - Both cases, Satan tries, but God has to be asked first.
 - so... Satan tries us, but God allows it
 - This is the reason that we are taught to pray... “lead us not into temptation”... don’t let that happen,... but if it does “deliver us from evil”
- D. God tests us -loyalty, sincerity
 - Gen. 22:1f - Abraham
 - Jesus driven into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan - by Holy Spirit

II. How do we get into trials?

1. Fall into - James 1:2 - sounds like an accident
2. Led into - by Satan
3. Have not been praying as we should - “watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation”
4. Satan is a snake - lies in wait
 - Satan is a lion - lies in wait, seeking whom he may devour

III. Why would God allow us to be tested?

1. Purify faith
2. Exercise faith
3. Manifest glory
 - why born blind - John 9
 - Lazarus - I am glad I was not here - for the glory of God - John 11
4. The eternal glory of God - trials are just a part of the big picture
5. To mature us - if he takes away our physical blessing...(example used) it is for the infinitely more blessed benefit of giving us something better/ more valuable.
6. See what is important... and what is relative:
 - When you lose a loved one - money is no comfort.
 - When you lose your health, or are betrayed by a friend, or are wrongfully maligned, - money cannot buy peace of mind, or decrease the pain.
 - Wealth does not bring God closer, nor does poverty keep Him further away.
 - *The gods of this world are revealed, often by trial of fire.
7. Encouragement:
 - A. Encouragement to patient endurance
 - B. Encouragement to prayer
 - C. Encouragement to joy and acceptance
 - D. Encouragement to hopefully look to the future