

# ENDURING TEMPTATION AND THE CROWN OF LIFE: -

Copyright 2016 - <http://lookingforthelosttruthsofjesus.org>

## OUR TEXT: -

**“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.” - James 1:12.**

☞ This passage is very simple and easy to understand. It outlines the believer’s role in gaining the victory over temptations and trials as they progress in their Christian walk, so that they can ultimately receive the crown of eternal life from the Lord. As such, when we break down this verse phrase by phrase, we can see the simple and interconnected truths that lead to the eternal reward for the victorious Christian. A simple analysis of this verse also stands directly in the way of the popular “I AM SAVED” teaching, as we shall now see.

### **A.) “Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation:”**

Jesus taught his disciples to pray that God would not lead them into temptation, but that he would deliver them from the Evil One.

Matthew 6:13: - **“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

We do not want to be like the hearers of the gospel seed which fell into the rocky ground; these people believe for a while, but because they lack a deep and abiding Christian experience, they fall away into the times of temptation.

Luke 8:6 & 13: - **“And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. ... **They on the rock** [are they], which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; **and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**”**

God **IS** faithful, who will not allow anyone to be tempted above what they are able to bear, but with the temptation he will make a way of escape, so that they can endure it.

1 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].**”**

Because Jesus was tempted like us in all points while he dwelt in our flesh, he knows how to give help to those who are tempted.

Hebrews 2:16-18: - **“For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.**”**

Hebrews 4:15: - **“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.**”**

The diverse temptations and trials that we experience are to develop patience in our Christian characters.

James 1:2 & 3: - “My brethren, count it all joy **when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience.**”

The trial of our faith through the various temptations that we encounter, if we overcome them, will result in our faith being found unto praise, honour and glory at the 2<sup>nd</sup> appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:6 & 7: - “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, **ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 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.**”

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations.

2 Peter 2:9: - “**The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations**, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

Those who keep the word of Jesus’ patience, will be kept by him in “the hour of temptation” that shall come upon the entire world at the end of time.


Revelation 3:10: - “**Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

### **B.) “for when he is tried,”**

The Greek word that is translated as “tried” is the word δοκιμος – “dokimos” – See Strong’s Concordance; Greek, No. 1384. It is defined as “approved (by test), tried and true, genuine.”<sup>1</sup>

In fact the phrase that we are now considering in this section of our study reads in Greek as: -

οτι δοκιμος γενομενος – literally it is translated as – “because having been proved”.

 **We are to be approved by the Lord as worthy to receive the crown of life, because we have endured and been victorious over temptations and trials. I would strongly suggest, that unless we have endured the temptations and trials of our Christian walk, we are not safe to be entrusted with the crown of life. Hence this is a powerful biblical reason why the “I AM SAVED” teaching is unbiblical. People are claiming the crown of life without having passed their tests and trials. This is presumption.**

We must remember that self-commendation is nothing; it is whom the Lord commends that counts. And in the context of this study, it is the person who endures and overcomes temptations and trials that the Lord will approve of.

2 Corinthians 10:18: - “**For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.**”

### **C.) “he shall receive the crown of life,”**

To obtain the incorruptible crown, every believer must strive to be temperate in all things.

1 Corinthians 9:25: - “**And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.** Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; **but we an incorruptible.**”

Paul at the end of his life, **after** having successfully completed his Christian fight and race, and **after** having kept the faith, looked forward to receiving the crown of righteousness from the Lord. This will be given to him at the 2<sup>nd</sup> appearing of Jesus.

---

<sup>1</sup> A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by Walter Bauer, page 203.

2 Timothy 4:6-8: - "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

The crown of glory is going to be given to the victors at the 2<sup>nd</sup> appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:4: - "And **when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory** that fadeth not away."

Jesus promised to give the crown of life to those who are faithful until death – to the end of their lives.

Revelation 2:10: - "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**"

In harmony with Jesus' teaching in the previous passage in Revelation 2:10, Jesus also taught that the believer, who endures until the end, shall be saved.

Matthew 10:22: - "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: **but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**"

Matthew 24:13: - "**But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**"

Mark 13:13: - "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: **but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**"

D.) "which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

☞ **The crown of life is promised to those who love the Lord.**

God has chosen those who are rich in faith to be heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him. This harmonizes exactly with James 1:12.

James 2:5: - "Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?**"

Loving the Lord is demonstrated by keeping his Commandments.

Exodus 20:6: - "And showing mercy unto thousands of them **that love me, and keep my commandments.**"

Nehemiah 1:5: - "And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them **that love him and observe his commandments.**"

Daniel 9:4: - "And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them **that love him, and to them that keep his commandments.**"

John 14:15: - "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

1 John 5:3: - "**For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.

The person who keeps the words of Jesus (Jesus' words were in reality his Father's words) loves him; while those who do not keep Jesus' words, do not love him.

John 14:23 & 24: - "Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**"

1 John 2:4 & 5: - "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected:** hereby know we that we are in him."

Our love for the Lord must not be shown just by empty words or profession. It is to be demonstrated by deeds and in truth.

1 John 3:18: - "My little children, **let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.**"

It is only those who love Jesus in sincerity – or in truth, that can receive the saving grace of Christ.

Ephesians 6:24: - "**Grace [be] with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.** Amen."