

Sunday, June 29, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Faith Grants the Crown of Life

Series: James ... 2;

Text: James 1:12 - 18

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation to understand that the greatest portion of Biblical wisdom is OUR FAITH RESPONSE.

Back on June 1 we began our meditations on the letter written by James, the half brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts 15 we observe that James is regarded as one of the pillars of the Church in Jerusalem.

~ We considered the counsel of the Holy Spirit in verses 1 – 8 of the first chapter:

~ Count it all Joy (ATTITUDE), vs. 2; ~ Know that the Testing (UNDERSTAND), vs. 3;

~ Let Steadfastness (SURRENDER), vs. 4; ~ Ask in Faith (WISDOM), vs. 6

~ For me, personally, the key verse is verse 5; *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”*

~ Please remember verse 2, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds;” notice it is “when” NOT if you meet various trials!

~ There is an interesting Greek word in verse 12 that helped me understand verses 12 – 18. The word “approved” is the Greek word dokimos (G1384). It is used 7 times in the New Testament:

Romans 14:18, Romans 16:10, 1 Corinthians 11:19,

2 Corinthians 10:18, 2 Corinthians 13:7, 2

Timothy 2:15, James 1:12.

Illustrative use in the potter’s kiln.

1. Faith Walk and the Crown of Life:

~ verse 12

~ Ephesians 2:8 – 9, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

~ John 1:12 – 13, *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 18, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (18) All this is from God, who through Christ has reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”*

~ Philippians 2:12 – 13, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

2. Faith Walk Understands Temptation:

~ verses 13 - 15

~ Matthew 4:1 – 11, Devil tries to tempt Christ Jesus—but in each case Christ answers with the Word. Notice the nature of the temptations: vs. 3, doubt and a genuine physical need; vs. 6, doubt and you (Christ) put God to the test; vs. 9, false worship but Christ answered with the Word and instructed the devil to leave!

~ Lamentations 3:60, *“You have seen all their vengeance, all their plots (schemes or devices) against me.”*

~ 2 Corinthians 2:11, *“so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”*

~ Proverbs 13:10 (KJV), *“Only by pride cometh contention; but with the well advised is wisdom.”*

3. Faith Grows Through the Word:

~ verses 16 – 18

~ 1 Peter 1:22 – 23, *“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;”*

~ John 17:2, 6, 11, 12, 20, 22, 24

~ Romans 10:17, *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

Wedding of John and Lyn illustrates logos and rhema

~ James 1:6, *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”*

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 10:13, *“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”*