

Perspective for Perseverance

Grace Church

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James shows us that true faith adopts God's **eternal perspective regarding poverty and riches**.

To persevere in trials with joy, adopt God's **eternal perspective** on poverty and riches.

- I. The poor believer must glory in his eternal riches in Christ. *James 1:9*
 - A. James gives us a paradox that levels the playing field between the rich and the poor in the church.
 1. He does show that in the church, the **world's distinctions** do not hold true.
 2. While the Bible shows that wealth may be a sign of God's blessing, it also **warns** about its dangers. *1 Timothy 6:9-10 Proverbs 11:4*

B. The Bible also shows that poverty can be a mixed bag. *Proverbs 13:18 Proverbs 28:6*

C. James directs the poor man to glory in his high position, which refers to his spiritual wealth in Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 1 Timothy 6:8

II. The rich believer must glory in his humiliation in Christ, knowing that it represents eternal riches that will never pass away. *James 1:10-11*

A. The rich man is tempted to glory in his wealth and the status and power that come from financial success.

B. How can we glory in our humiliation?

1. First, we can glory in the fact that God has opened our eyes to see the vanity of worldly wealth and status.

2. Second, we can glory in the fact that God has shown us the essence of **true happiness and honor**. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

3. Third, we can glory in the fact that we now have an **eternal inheritance** that will never be taken away. *1 Peter 1:3-4*

III. Both rich and poor who persevere under trial should look forward to the crown of life that God has promised to those that love Him. *James 1:12*

A. Blessedness refers to a lasting condition that undergirds momentary sorrow or sadness.

B. Verse 12 brings out four truths:

1. Both poverty and riches are tests of faith.

2. The way of true blessing is not to be **exempt** from trials, but to **persevere** under them.

3. The crown of life is God's reward for those that persevere under trials. *2 Timothy 2:12*

4. The strength to persevere under trials comes from love for Christ. *1 John 4:8*

IV. Conclusion:

- A. James would have us see that life is a vapor.

James 4:14

- B. To focus on accumulating wealth if we lack it or to expend ourselves in amassing more wealth than we already have, would be rather shortsighted.

- C. Rather, we should focus on the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- D. That eternal focus will enable us to persevere in trials with joy.



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