

1. Those who are patient in tribulation/tests/temptations are blessed.
 - a. Tests are inevitable. Either we are in a test, leaving a test, or going into another test.
 - b. Tests result in the eschatological rewards of the kingdom of God. God crowns those who have been tested with eternal life.
 - c. Struggle is necessary to obtain the promises of God.
2. Being tested, however, is not the same as being tempted.
 - a. God allows the temptation but God does not tempt. The word *dokimos* is used in verse 12. This more aligns with our concept of being “proven.” God allows temptation to prove us, to show us who we truly are. God also allows temptation to push us forward to strengthen us further for service in his kingdom.
 - b. During the testing, failure to withstand does not come from God. Rather, it is the consequence of being drawn away by own lusts.
 - c. God does tempt us to destroy ourselves, he does not tempt with evil. There is never a time when we do evil when we can say, God made me do it. Our own desires draw us into the evils we are in.
3. We must always check our lusts; they lead to death.
 - a. We will always have lusts that will come before our eyes. Lust is unavoidable. What is avoidable is the conception process. We never have to indulge our lusts. James was not saying we would never feel the lust but we have the obligation to deny it.
 - b. Going along with lust will bring forth sin. It leads us away from the commandments of God. Gen 3:1-7 demonstrates that when we entertain lust and go with it, it will bring out disobedience to the commands of God.
 - c. Sin always produces death, separation from God. More sinning does not help you get free from sin. The more we indulge sin, the more death and separation we will have from God.