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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Living Faith: Blessed is the Man who Remains Steadfast (James 1:9-12)

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching explains how James tells believers of different social and economic positions to view their circumstances in light of eternity. The lowly brother is to boast in his exaltation, while the rich is to boast in his humiliation.

The lowly brother is understood as one of low social status, particularly someone without material wealth. His exaltation points to the maturity produced through trials and ultimately to the crown of life promised in the age to come.

The teaching explains that wealth itself is not inherently sinful. However, the rich believer must recognize that wealth is temporary and can become an encumbrance or substitute for dependence on God.

James compares the rich man's passing wealth to a flower of the grass that withers under the scorching sun. Both rich and poor are called to find their joy and strength in God rather than in their circumstances.

James 1:12 concludes the section by blessing the person who remains steadfast under trial. The crown of life is promised to those who stand the test and love God.

The final application turns to wealth and eternity. Yeshua and Paul likewise teach that earthly treasures are temporary, while generosity, good works, and devotion to God are lasting treasures.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The lowly brother is to boast in his exaltation.
- The rich brother is to boast in his humiliation.
- The lowly believer's exaltation includes growth toward maturity.
- Wealth is not inherently sinful.

- Earthly wealth is temporary and unreliable.
- The rich man is compared to a flower that withers in the heat.
- Both rich and poor must depend on God.
- The steadfast person is blessed after standing the test.
- The crown of life is promised to those who love God.
- Heavenly treasure is connected with generosity and good works.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. James tells the lowly brother to boast in his _____.
2. The rich brother is told to boast in his _____.
3. The rich man is compared to a flower of the _____.
4. The sun's scorching heat causes the grass to _____.
5. The steadfast person receives the crown of _____.
6. Yeshua says to lay up treasures in _____.

Challenging

1. The Greek word for lowly discussed in the teaching is _____.
2. The Greek word for rich discussed in the teaching is _____.
3. James 1:12 presents trial as a _____ that must be stood.
4. The teaching says wealth can become an _____ to the rich man.
5. Paul warns against setting hope on the uncertainty of _____.
6. The teaching says the love of money is a root of all kinds of _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the teaching explain the lowly brother's exaltation?
2. Why is wealth described as temporary and potentially dangerous without being inherently sinful?
3. How does the flower-of-the-grass image communicate the teaching's view of earthly wealth?
4. What does it mean to remain steadfast under trial according to this teaching?

5. How do Yeshua's words about treasures in heaven support James's teaching?
6. What does Paul's instruction to the rich add to the discussion of wealth and eternity?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. exaltation
2. humiliation
3. grass
4. wither
5. life
6. heaven

Challenging

1. tapeinos
2. plousios
3. test
4. encumbrance
5. riches
6. evils