

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Two Ways To Pass The Wisdom Test

James 1:9-10

Sunday, February 14, 2016

We are tested in life in two ways: **1. When we have more than enough; 2. When we have not enough.** To avoid the spiritual dangers of having more than enough, we should humble ourselves before the Lord. To avoid the spiritual dangers of not enough, we encourage ourselves in the Lord.

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF

James 1:9

NLT - "Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them."

KJV - "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:"

When King David had made a terrible miscalculation which caused the kidnap of the families of all his men and the confiscation of all their belongings, he was at his lowest point and everyone turned against him. What did he do?

1 Samuel 30:6

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. KJV

The phrase "of low degree" means one in humble circumstances, rank, or employment. It speaks of a condition of dependence or poverty. James is saying that we should live with such simplicity that when we are low in outward circumstances, we can easily rejoice that our wealth is in the profound truth that we are heirs of God who are looking forward to the riches of the life to come.

John Courson says, "*James reminds us that regardless of our financial situation on earth, we're exalted, elevated above the world system because we're part of a kingdom whose streets are paved with gold. Thus, whether we're worried about poverty or weighed down with riches, we can be absolutely free if we keep a heavenly perspective.*"

HUMBLE YOURSELF

James 1:10

NLT - "And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field."

KJV - "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away."

The rich may rejoice "in that they are made low," because all they own belongs to God. In addition to this, they can be assured that special trials await them that are designed to show them how to be lowly in spirit. God has chosen to place all people on equal footing.

The successful should honor the Lord with their wealth.

Our walk with God is always tested when a change takes place in our external circumstances. We should know God is working to show us the quality of our walk with Him.

The unsuccessful should remind themselves, **"Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?" (James 2:5b)**

God disciplines us, but it is never used in the same way as when God disciplines or judges the nations.

It is design the person, not to punish for what we have done. The point is to make the person a better person.

Conclusion

God delights in his children, therefore both success and adversity are used by Him to maximize our awareness of how much he loves us.

Someone might ask, "How do I know that God really loves me?" Because He came into this world and passed the tests for us. He was the most successful person, but it did not go to his head.

He also suffered horribly, but he trusted his father in the midst of it.