

1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Good morning everyone. The mornings and evenings have become much cooler.

As the saying goes, "the heat and the cold last until the other side of the equinoxes," and in just 10 days, we will be in that season.

The hot season has been very hot, but now the long, cold season will gradually arrive after the short autumn season. Please take care of yourselves. Let us pray especially for the elderly and those who are in the midst of illness.

Now, since last week we have been in the book of James, and we have been reading the letter of James, the brother of the Lord, written to those in the church who have been separated and are struggling with persecution.

Last week, we had these words of the Lord,

2 My brethren. When you meet with various trials, consider them rather as very pleasant.

3 For as ye know, patience is produced by the testing of faith.

4 Therefore use your endurance to the full, so that you may become perfect and complete, without defect.

It was written about the meaning of trials.

When we encounter trials, it is rather difficult to think of them as a great joy, but they are a training in faith, in which perseverance is produced, and if we use the perseverance that we have developed in these trials, we will become a perfect, complete person without any defects, and the trials that bring about that growth can be understood as a great joy. Therefore, the trials that bring about such growth can be understood as a great joy.

This is, of course, only possible if it is in the plan of the Lord God.

When I say trials, I mean tests, but I am reminded of the words of Luke 22:31, "And I will test you in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan is permitted to wish to sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you get back on your feet, strengthen your brothers.

Sift them as wheat. This refers to the process of separating the husks of the wheat from the husks of the chaff. The husks are then burned in a fire.

Luke 3:16 Then John said to everyone, "I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie his cobblestones. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

3:17 And he will take a winnowing basket in his hand and sift the wheat from the field, and he will put the wheat in the storehouse and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Although these events are accompanied by harsh images of "trials, being tested, and being tested," God redeems us, makes the sinners righteous, makes those who have become worthless and like chaff that can only be thrown into the fire worthy, and in the midst of difficulties, we are to remain in the faith, never being abandoned. He said that we will not be forsaken, that our sufferings are of great value, and that perseverance is produced by the testing of our faith.

Patience, whether in sports, study, or anything else, seems to be something that is cultivated when we continue to do hard things, but if there are achievements in sports and study based on hard work and accomplishment, then patience gained through faith, which is achieved by believing and waiting on the Lord, and patience that is backed by trust in the Lord, is the most important thing. Patience backed by trust in the Lord is the most valuable thing that can be applied to anything in our lives.

3 For as you know, it is by faith put to the test that patience is produced.

4 Therefore, work out your patience so that you may be perfect and complete, without any defect.

5 If any of you lacks in wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach. 6 But do not doubt, but have faith.

6 But ask in faith, not doubting, and it will be given you.

Wisdom for living is also essential. But where do we look for wisdom? Do we base our wisdom on our life experiences? Do we seek wisdom from the experienced, the knowledgeable, the wealthy, and the lucky? But we seek wisdom from God, who gives it willingly and generously. We go forward believing that God provides, that He is that kind of God, and that trusting Him and asking Him to teach us is the path to wisdom. In this context, the Bible tells us that trials are also a station.

12 Blessed is the man who endures trials. If you endure it, you will receive the crown of life promised to those who love God.

Through trials, God gives us wisdom to live, endurance, and if we persevere, He will give us the crown of life that He has promised.

1 Corinthians 9 says

9:24 Do you not know? Everyone who runs in the arena runs, but only one wins the prize. Run so that you also may receive a prize.

9:25 But all who compete are temperate in everything. They do so to obtain a crown that will not decay, but we do so to obtain a crown that will not decay.

9:26 Therefore I will not run in such a way that my goal is not clear, nor will I engage in fist fights in which I strike at the sky.

9:27 That is, I beat my body into submission. Otherwise, you may become a disqualified person while preaching to others.

Also in Revelation 2, we read

2:10 Fear not the affliction which thou art about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison to test you. And ye shall be afflicted for ten days. Be faithful unto death. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

A crown of life. When we think of crowns, we think of the crowning of kings, but there are also crowns as awards for athletic competitions. There are many crowns, but what could be more comforting and glorious than the crown of life given in heaven after suffering? This incorruptible crown of life is God's promised gift to all of us for our perseverance in faith.

13 When anyone meets with temptation, he should not say, "This temptation is from God. For God is not of the temptation of evil, neither does he willingly tempt anyone.

14 For each one falls into temptation because he is drawn or enticed by greed.

15 For greed is conceived and gives birth to sin, and sin is ripe and gives birth to death.

This is the kind of temptation that can bring our perseverance to a standstill in the midst of trials. God gives us trials to nourish our patience, but here we have a word against those who, by faith, do not receive them as pleasing, but feel tormented by God and are frustrated with Him.

God, with His good will, prepares for us patience, knowledge, and the crown of life in order to give us goodness, but those who cannot endure it say, "This temptation is from God," God does not think well of us and is mean to us, and if He is, why should we We wonder why we have to meet with such trials, and we try to abandon and stop trusting in God without fully using our patience. God is not one to fall into evil temptations, nor does He willingly tempt men. Thus, in plain and simple language, the Bible states that we lust our own way by our own desires apart from God's testing, and are tempted and led astray by temptation.

16 Beloved brethren. Do not be mistaken.

17 Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes down from above, from the Father of lights. With the Father there is no such thing as change or shadow of turning.

But with God there is every good gift. There are perfect gifts. We want to look up to the One who is full of good gifts and perfect gifts, who knows our needs and gives willingly and generously, without worrying about tomorrow. When we turn away from Him and enter into the whirlpool of our own endless desires, trials stand firmly before us.

But with God we have every good gift, every perfect gift, which comes from above, from the Father of lights.

With God the Father, there are no fads, no transitions, no contradictions, no changes from moment to moment. There is always order, no irregularity, no contradiction, stability, and no breakdown. But those who live according to their desires do not. With God, there may be trials, and there may be many times when we are forced to persevere. We must not let this cause our hearts to wilt, or cause us to lose faith and doubt God. What is needed here is patience. Faith. With God, there are all kinds of good gifts. There are perfect gifts. With God

the Father, there is no such thing as appearances, deception, fraud, malice, or trickery. There is no need for us to use all of our wisdom to try our hardest in the midst of godless chaos, where we are uncertain, where we do not know if He is there or not.

18 The Father has created us, as He willed, by the word of truth, to be the firstfruits of His creation, so to speak.

God the Father created His people to be secure in that kind of faith, to be like children and to live in a straightforward manner, and He made us the firstfruits of that people of faith. He called us to be the forerunners of those who would follow us and go on believing in such a God the Father. We have been produced by God's word of truth, according to His will.

Contrary to the ripening of sin, which produces death, we have been produced according to God's will by the Word of truth.

We have tasted the truth of God's Word as we have struggled and prayed in the midst of trials, and as we have developed perseverance in the midst of struggles of faith. We have come to know the truth of God's generosity in giving us every good gift and perfect gift, and we have surrendered to His will. Let us continue to be in this way of being. Let us put aside the preoccupation that we must save ourselves, put aside our own way of thinking, and let us go forward this week with full trust in the Father, the Father of lights, who guides us with every good gift and perfect gift, in whom there is no change, no shadow of rotation, and in whom there is no shadow of turning. Let us pray to the Lord that we may be the first ears of faith, the forerunners, the models for many, and the forerunners and priming for salvation and peace.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. God, thank you that you have no evil thoughts or intentions, that you are not tempted or deceived by the wicked, but only work out good things for us, protect us, and guide us day by day. Please strengthen us in your holy redemption and guidance through faith and your Word, and use us as your holy servants in this world this week. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.