

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

### THE CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

There are five crowns mentioned in Scripture. They are the Everlasting Crown (1 Cor 9:25), the Crown for the One who Wins Souls (Php 4:1; 1 Thess 2:19), the Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4:8), the Crown of Glory (1 Pet 5:4), and here in James 1:12, the Crown of Life (see also Rev 2:10).

Crowns are placed upon a person to symbolize a high status or a victory won. They can be ornate with precious jewels embedded in gold and silver or as simple as the victor’s olive wreath the Romans placed on the head of the winner of a race. Regardless of the type of crown, it sets apart the recipient from all others.

James 1:12 mentions a very specific crown, the “crown of life.” It is placed upon the head of one who remains faithful to God and depends solely upon their trust in Jesus Christ no matter what trials and tribulations they endure during their earthly life. As earlier verses have stated, the purpose of these trials and tribulations is to refine and purify the faith of the true believer in Christ, making him or her complete, whole, lacking nothing.

Jesus says of the one who endures faithfully to the end of their earthly life, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10b) Note Jesus says this crown of life is His personal gift to the faithful Christian. James says, this crown is God’s gift to those who “remain steadfast under trial” and “love God.” (James 1:12)

As you endure trials and tribulations, know that God does permit them to come into your life. As verse one says, He does this to produce “steadfastness” in you . . . and that you may be “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:1) Romans 8:28 assures you, “. . . that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast in my faith especially during times I experience trials and tribulations knowing that You have promised me in Christ the crown of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.  
Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten Thousand beside! Refrain:  
(LSB 809)