

THE ONE

JAMES 1:12-18

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “Children operate on the basis of feeling, but adults operate on the basis of will. *They act because it is right, no matter how they feel.* This explains why immature Christians easily fall into temptation: they let their feelings make the decisions.” Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II, p. 343.

WITH GRACE IS BLESSED. Blessed means “possessing the favor of God, that state of being marked by fullness from God. Blessed is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world. His satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstances.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 937. Therefore, the saint can persevere under trial. (**James 1:12 fn 1:12, James 1:2-4, fn 1:2-4, Philippians 4:10-13, fn 4:10-14, Matthew 6:31-34, fn 6:34, I John 4:16-18, fn 4:17, fn 4:18**) *How could you feel blessed in all circumstances?*

WITHOUT GRACE HAS NO CONTROL. “We think of sin as a single act, but God sees it as a process.” Wiersbe, p. 342. The four stages of this process are: (1) evil desires—Inside God’s will desires are normal; but without constant controlling grace through Jesus Christ, evil desires are your master. (2) enticements—In fishing, bait is used to attract, but the cruel hook is used to catch. For us, the bait is “attractive” ungodly desire and the cruel hook is sorrow and punishment. (3) conception—The fertility of sin bears its offspring, and its consequences are shared with the innocent. (4) death—Death is spiritual separation from God. (**James 1:13-15, fn 1:12-15, fn 1:13, 14, fn 1:13-15, I Corinthians 10:13, fn 10:13, Romans 8:13, fn 8:13, Romans 6:23, fn 6:23[1st]**) *What is the threshold of evil desires, and how could you escape and prevent its addiction?*

WITH GRACE HAS NEW BIRTH AND RESURRECTION LIFE. Not only can you look forward to your resurrection. You have the resurrected Christ living in you. (**James 1:16-18, fn 1:18, I Corinthians 15:20, fn 15:20, Ephesians 1:18-20, fn 1:19, 20, Colossians 1:26-29, fn 1:26, 27**) *Why is it important for those in your group to remind each other that they have new birth (the resurrected Christ living in them) and the resurrection of our bodies to come.*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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