

October 17, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the LORD has promised to those who love Him.
(NIV)

The Greek word for perseveres is **upomenei** which is a combination of two words: **hupo** and **meno**. Hupo means 'under' and meno means 'to stay.' This verse tells us that when we go through the trials of life, we must be willing to stay under the trial until the LORD finishes His work in us. In fact, in the beginning of this passage, James exhorts us to count it joy when we face trials of many kinds because the testing of your faith produces endurance. One who is willing to endure each trial knowing that the outcome will bring a complete and perfect result where we will be lacking in nothing. It is in the refiner's fire that we are made more and more into the likeness of the Son. Having said this, James says we will receive the crown of life.

It is unclear as to the specificity of this crown. It is mentioned in scripture in Revelation 2:10 as the victor's crown for those who endure the suffering brought upon them during the tribulation period. But more specifically, I believe the crown of life is the fact that we have received adoption by the Father through the salvation of the cross and Christ's resurrection. Those who have received redemption are 'set apart' as those whom the LORD will crown with real and abundant life. We will not have to just exist each day, but we can truly be filled by the breath of God and used by the power of God. The crown is not to bring us glory, but to reflect it to the One Who has given His all for us. We should be showing our love for Him by showing our love for others. Take a moment and 'reset' your thinking process today. We all need to be reminded of God's love and the price that He has paid for our sin. This should daily motivate us to endure whatever may come our way.

Dear LORD, we need You every day. Help us not to grow weary, but instead, give us the desire to persevere no matter what we may be facing. In Jesus Name, Amen