

OUR PROVING GROUNDS

WHEN THE TRIALS HIT OUR BANK ACCOUNT

JAMES 1:9-12

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • November 1, 2026 • James, week 4 • Msg. 26-36

James 1:9 *Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation* ***10*** *and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.* ***11*** *For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.* ***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.* *(ESV)*

1. When _____ (vv.9-10)

Remember:

Remember:

Remember:

Remember:

2. When _____ (vv.10-11)

Remember:

Remember:

Remember:

Remember:

3. Endure _____ (v.12)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Revelation 2:8-11**. Imagine belonging to this struggling church and hearing Christ declare, "but you are rich." What would those words have meant to you, and how should they change the way you think about your own difficulties, especially if they are financial?

2. Read **Deuteronomy 8:11-18**. How can faithfully practicing a strong work ethic gradually lead us to overlook God's role in our financial provision? What practical habits can guard us against that subtle danger?

3. Read **1 Timothy 6:17**. Paul describes God as one "who richly provides us with everything to enjoy." What does this reveal about God's heart toward his children? Why do some Christians struggle to believe it?

4. Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. What might your spending, saving, and financial planning reveal about where your heart is most invested? What adjustments would help you more consistently prioritize eternal treasure?

5. Read **Habakkuk 3:17-19**. What does Habakkuk's response to devastating circumstances teach us about the source of genuine joy and strength? How might adopting his perspective change the way you respond to financial pressures?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 09-24 – **Rethinking Biblical Faith in a Down Economy**
Msg. 08-05 – **Finding Peace in the Storm of Materialism**
Msg. 07-35 – **Contentment Instead of Materialism**
Msg. 12-39 – **The Wealth of Those Who Don't Seem to Have Much**
Msg. 11-07 – **Excelling in Generosity**
Msg. 07-14 – **Trusting God Enough to Give Him Our Best**
Msg. 17-01–17-07 – **Money Matters (7-part series on money)**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Nov. 1st.....*Jer.31-32 & Titus 2*
Nov. 2nd.....*Jer.33-35 & Titus 3*
Nov. 3rd.....*Jer.36-37 & Phile.*
Nov. 4th.....*Jer.38-39 & Heb.1*
Nov. 5th.....*Jer.40-42 & Heb.2*
Nov. 6th.....*Jer.43-45 & Heb.3*
Nov. 7th.....*Jer.46-48 & Heb.4*
Nov. 8th.....*Jer.49-50 & Heb.5*

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Alcorn, Randy. ***Money, Possessions, and Eternity.*** Tyndale House Publishers, 2003.
Blomberg, Craig L. ***Neither Poverty nor Riches.*** William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.
Burkett, Larry. ***Debt-Free Living: How to Get Out of Debt and Stay Out.*** Moody Publishers, 2000.
Cortines, John, and Greg Baumer. ***God and Money: Finding True Riches at Harvard Business School.*** Rose Pub., 2016.
Getz, Gene A. ***Real Prosperity: Biblical Principles of Material Possessions.*** Moody Press, 1990.
Grudem, Wayne. ***Business for the Glory of God.*** Crossway, 2003.
MacArthur, John. ***Whose Money Is It Anyway? A Biblical Guide to Using God's Wealth.*** Word Publishing, 2000.
Mack, Wayne A., and Deborah Howard. ***It's Not Fair! Finding Hope When Times Are Tough.*** P&R Publishing, 2008.
Murray, Andrew. ***Money: Thoughts for God's Stewards.*** Fleming H. Revell Company, 1897.
Petty, James C. ***When the Money Runs Out: Hope and Help for the Financially Stressed.*** New Growth Press, 2009.
Smith, Christian, et al. ***Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money.*** Oxford, 2008.
Vincent, Mark L., Matthew M. Thomas, and Zachary L. Vincent. ***A Christian View of Money.*** Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2017.
Willmer, Wesley K., ed. ***A Revolution in Generosity.*** Moody Publishers, 2008.