

Words from a Brother

No Cheap Crowns

Pastor Ken Cramer
September 9, 2018

James 1:2-12 (NIV84)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. 9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business. 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Outlook determines outcome and attitude determines action... Warren Wiersbe

Choose Joy in the time of testing because it is the wisest course of action

1. Choosing Joy gives me a Kingdom perspective because not everything is made plain in this life v.2-4
2. Choosing Joy shows I am part of an elite group of people who are not of this world v 12

Hebrews 11:38 - *The world was not worthy of them*
Philippians 3:20 - *Our citizenship is in Heaven*

3. Choosing Joy gives me fellowship with my Master who is acquainted with sorrows, but chose the joy set before him

Isaiah 53:3 - *He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race*

marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4. Choosing Joy allows me to ask for and receive wisdom by which I will find the life I was meant to live

James 3:13–18 (NIV84)

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Ask for and receive Wisdom in the secret place. Wisdom is the lens through which you will find the life you were fashioned for.

Church Announcements:

1. **Adults Small Groups, Wednesday Nights at 7 PM** in the Sanctuary, will be starting a study on September 12th called ***Back to Basics: Staying Anchored in God***. It is a 4 week study based on the church's 16 fundamental truths.
2. **New Friends Lunch, September 23**, for those who are new to LightHouse, an opportunity to have lunch with the Pastors and LightHouse Team Leaders after the 10 AM service. This is a chance to learn more of what LightHouse is all about. The luncheon will be held in the Family Life Center.