

# **A Matter of Life and Death**

**James 1:12-18**

## **The LIFE Pathway - How to be Blessed in a Trial (1:12)**

- Endurance
- Approval
- Crown of LIFE

## **The Blame Game - No One but Yourself (1:13)**

- “God made me do it.”
- “The devil made me do it.”
- “I did it.”

## **The DEATH Pathway - How to Fail in Misery (1:14-15)**

- Lust
- Sin
- DEATH

## **The Credit Game - No One but God**

- Don't fool yourself.
- God is a consistent giver of good gifts.
- Salvation is the first fruits with more to come.

**Trials provide an opportunity to really live  
when you endure and experience God's approval  
or experience living death as a Christian  
when your desire leads to sin and ultimately death.**

## **GROWTH GUIDE**

- Monday: Genesis 3:1-7
- Tuesday: Luke 4:1-11
- Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Thursday: Revelation 2:8-11
- Friday: James 1:19-21

## **NEXT STEPS FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE**

- I will explain the two pathways through a trial to someone who did not hear the message (family member, friend, Fellowship member who skipped church today).
- I will reflect on the two pathways and how they have been real in my own life.
- I will pray for wisdom and strength to endure my own trials without blaming God or others.

## **HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS**

- Read James 1:12-18.
- Discuss the message. Is there anything that stood out as important, new, challenging, or helpful?
- What does the blessing of God look like?
- How would it feel to be “approved by God” for enduring a trial to the end?
- Why is it so easy to blame others?
- Explain the workings of the Lust-Sin-Death cycle with examples.
- When have you experienced this cycle in your life?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:12. Talk about what that means on a daily basis.
- How does our salvation help us trust God for future good gifts?
- Discuss a trial you are enduring. Pray for wisdom and endurance.