

Bible Study 3 – Trials with proper perspective – James 1:9-11

Cornelius Vanderbilt built a fortune in the mid-1800s. But his children and grandchildren lived lavishly and failed to preserve the fortune. By the 1970s there wasn't a millionaire among the family.

When he divorced in 1982, Peter Pultizer was worth \$25 million. But a few years ago he had to be bailed out financially by the husband of his ex-wife.

70% of wealthy families lose their wealth by the second generation, and 90% by the third. When it comes to preserving family fortunes, often it's rags to riches to rags.

In this study we look at how the poor and the rich can benefit from the trials of life.

The context	James was probably the brother of Jesus and a prominent elder at the original church at Jerusalem. This letter was written in about AD 46 to Jewish Christians who had been scattered by persecution (1:1; 8:1; 11:19). It refers to their trials and oppression. The theme is that Christian faith expresses itself in a life of godliness. He begins saying that persevering through trials develops godly character & we need to pray for wisdom.
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PART 1 Read & summarise each section – James 1:9-11

Trials of the poor (v.9)	
Trials of the wealthy (v.10-11)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

2. What I learnt about people like us.

3. Summarise a key verse in your own words.

4. In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. What was Paul's attitude to things in his life that he couldn't change (1 Corinthians 15:10)?

7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

Let's have an eternal point of view because money can't carry us through our trials. This shows that spiritual wealth trumps physical wealth.



