



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

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. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:12-18

Is it worth it?

Is it really worth it to be a Christian? Wouldn't it be easier just to do whatever you want? Wouldn't it be much more fun to give into temptations whenever they come knocking at your door? A friend invites you to a drinking party. You don't want that friend to think less of you. Plus, it sounds like it could be fun! Wouldn't it be exciting to see how "far" you can get with your significant other? Everyone else is enjoying that. Why shouldn't you? Is it really worth it to be a Christian?

Maybe you've had those thoughts. It starts with a desire to experience life to the fullest. But God's Word gives us a serious warning. If we let those desires go unchecked, they take us down a dangerous road. Sure, that road may lead us to things that seem fun, but God warns us that at the end of that road is death.

But think of what God has already given you: forgiveness for all your wrongs, eternal life with him in heaven, status as his dear child now and forever! What temptations offer don't even compare to what God has given you in Jesus. So when those temptations come, hold onto God through his Word. He will give you everything you need, everything good for your soul. He will strengthen you and he reassures you, "I have a crown of life for you!"

Is it worth it to be a Christian? Yes, because in Jesus you are his now and forever!

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, every day I'm tempted to go my own way, not yours. Help me to hold onto you and your Word. Strengthen my faith in Jesus as my Savior so that I may receive the crown of life he has won for me. Amen.