

# **Faith Alive!**

***Passing the Test***

**James 1:11-15**

# Faith Alive! - *Passing the Test* - James 1:12-15

- **Victorious Perseverance:**

- **Graduating *Cum Laude* (vs. 12)**

- **Tested like gold refined by fire**

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

- **Crown = a laurel wreath – awarded at academic and athletic celebrations**

## Faith Alive! - *Passing the Test* - James 1:12-15

- **Victorious Perseverance:**  
**Graduating *Cum Laude* (vs. 12)**
- **Trials: Either Tests Or Temptations**  
The same circumstances that can lead to graduation with honors can also lead to the utter failure of sin and death – it all depends on how we respond to them.

## Faith Alive! - *Passing the Test* - James 1:12-15

- **Victorious Perseverance:**  
**Graduating *Cum Laude* (vs. 12)**
- **Trials: Either Tests Or Temptations**
- **Don't shift the blame (vs. 13)**
  - We're always tend to look for someone or something else to blame:  
**'  X   made me do it...'**
  - No one makes you mad – they are but an occasion for your to give yourself to your angry inclinations
  - There is nothing within God that responds to evil
  - God often tests us, but he never tempts us.

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- **Victorious Perseverance:**  
**Graduating *Cum Laude* (vs. 12)**
- **Trials: Either Tests Or Temptations**
- **Don't shift the blame (vs. 13)**
- **Don't take the bait (vs. 14-15)**
  - **The enemy within**
  - **A strong pull toward sin**  
(our fallen, sinful nature)
  - **Drawn to the bait**  
(like a fish to the lure)

## Faith Alive! - *Passing the Test* - James 1:12-15

- **Don't take the bait - Change your taste!**

The pursuit of joy in God is the key to breaking the power of sin on our way to heaven Matthew Henry put it like this:

*The joy of the Lord will arm us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks.*

I know of no other way to triumph over sin long-term than to gain a distaste for it, because of a superior satisfaction in God.

John Piper