



**SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, 02/04/2022**

**Scripture: James 1:12**

**TITLE: What Motivates You?**

What motivates you to do a good job? For my kids, it can range from money, to “V-Bucks” for Fortnite, to one-on-one time at a sporting event, to a snow cone. For me, it’s recognition for a job well done. What about you? What motivates you to do a good job?

Maybe another way of asking this question would be, “what motivates you to win the day for Jesus?” Or probably the right way of asking is, “what should motivate us to win the day for Jesus?” James answers this question. And it definitely was not my top answer.

What did James say? This is his answer in James 1:12 (CSB).

*Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

James has been giving us some practical ways to think about and persevere through trials. We’ve covered a different piece each day this week. And today, he says, “blessed is the one who endures.” Blessed isn’t just a Christianese thing here. It means to have deep satisfaction. It’s like completing a big project, and it turns out just right. You sit back and smile from ear to ear. This is how we should feel when we endure a trial.

Why? What’s the motivation for such endurance? James says, “he will receive the crown of life. For those who love him.”

Oh dang, James. So our motivation is salvation? So if we don’t endure these trials perfectly, we lose salvation. No way is this what James means. This would contradict the Bible’s teaching on the assurance of salvation.

Endurance does not result in salvation and eternal life but is itself the result and evidence of salvation and eternal life. You see, a Christian is not someone who simply acknowledges Jesus or salvation but is a person who shows true faith by an ongoing love for God that does not end.

You see, when you love someone, you pursue them and fight for them no matter what comes your way. It doesn’t mean you do it perfectly or never grow tired. But you press on towards the prize as Paul said.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Declare your love for God. Sometimes I simply need to remind myself and declare my love for my wife to keep me fighting through the hard times. How

much more so for our love for God. Declare in the comments below why you love God and how this motivates you to endure.

Declare your love, and when you do, you will win the day.