

# James (Quality: Average, Incomplete)

*Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.*

Date: 16 September 1990

Preacher: Funnell, Eric (1932-1994)

- [ 0 : 00 ] Oh, we cry, God, in the rain.  
Oh, we cry, God, in the rain.  
Oh, we cry, God, in the rain.  
Oh, we cry, God, in the rain. Oh, we cry, God, in the rain.  
May the dear Lord be so pleased to help us again this afternoon.
- [ 1 : 45 ] We'd venture to read from the General Epistle of James, chapter 1, verse 12. Verse 12, chapter 1, the General Epistle of James.  
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation. For when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.  
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation. Now, we were helped this morning to look at a few words in the beginning of the verse.  
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation. And we felt in the interval that we'd come so short to encourage the living family of God.  
Oh, how short we came. But we would desire again this afternoon, as the dear Lord should be pleased to help, to venture once more to look into this word.
- [ 3 : 08 ] And we hope that our very life and experience are couching in this verse. For we do so desire that as we journey day by day and hour by hour to be blessed.  
And we ask the dear Lord in oftentimes groans and tears. Oh, that thou wouldest, as dear Jabez of old is recorded.  
He said, oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed. And you see, to have these heavenly blessings, we must know the fiery trials.  
Oh, the temptations to the people of God. And you may remember how we sought to speak of those things where the dear Lord leads his people.  
And we would mention again that it is to bring us nearer to himself. The temptations. All men are tempted.
- [ 4 : 19 ] Even the world, worldlings, the ungodly have their temptations. But we would speak more particularly to the people of God, to the living family.  
To encourage those that feel tossed and tried at every turn. For it is possible to get into a lukewarm state.  
To feel that we are in a path of measurable ease and prosperity. To think that nothing will come against us and we can go on and on. And that we can take from the Lord's fullness.  
But you see, that's not the way. The dear Lord leads the most sweet characters of his grace. Into the deepest trials.  
The deepest fires. The deepest floods and flames. You see, the wicked know not anything. But to the dear family of God. They are brought, you see, through the floods and flames in his likeness to shine at last.

[ 5 : 24 ] You see, it makes your heart go out after him. And we spoke a few things this morning. To encourage you to press on. For the time will come, dear friends.

We all know naturally that the days on earth are numbered. But by nature we are careless. We are inconsiderate. By nature we want to have our fill in this life.

You see, it's only as the dear Lord begins the work of grace. Separates his people unto himself. Is there a change of heart? See, by nature we'd be after the very things that the worldlings prize and call good and great.

Why? They rejoice in their prosperity. They have no one to turn to in their temptations and sorrows. Oh, how many poor dear hearts.

Are deluded and lost in a form of religion. But oh, to the living family. There's a seeking. There's a blessing God for his correcting hand.

[ 6 : 36 ] When he lays his chastening hand upon you. Oh, you're brought by sweet grace to repent at his dear feet. And when you're corrected, you know, don't you?

You don't have to go around saying, I wonder why the Lord's laid this on me. No, the soul knows. There's a creeping off, isn't there? There's a hiding, you know, don't you?

When the dear Lord chastens you. When he brings those things to remind you. When there are temptations to walk in. But you see, we have in our text, Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.

You see, we help to endure lots of things in life. But it's not temptation. But to the family of God, you see, there are these temptations.

The devil will stand at your right hand to resist you. You go to bed perhaps feeling a little measure of holy happiness.

[ 7 : 36 ] And perhaps in the morning, oh, how things are changed. You don't live under that heavenly influence, do you? The child of God mourns because he's not more often there.

He mourns because he's got a hard arm. And he has felt the Lord depart. You say, how can you mourn over these things when you've got a hard heart?

Because through grace, you see, you've been softened. Softened at his dear feet. Made like a little child. Filled with his spirit.

Full of grace and repentance. And yet, you see, some little things only got to blow across your path. And then old nature's there, isn't it? We're hard by nature.

We're not always under the influence of grace. But he says here, blessed is the man that endureth temptation. I didn't think really to go into the temptations this afternoon.

[ 8 : 34 ] But I must lay the foundation again this afternoon. For you see, if we have that sacred work in our hearts, so that we know we cannot live without God.

We know that we cannot do anything in providence without God. You see, it's a work of prayer. And I did love to hear the brethren in prayer in the interval.

And when you were singing the first hymn, my heart was soft. When I heard you, dear ones, commence the afternoon service, to hear the singing, and to realise it's not us, it was the dear Lord Jesus, that come to me so sweetly in the vestry, that the dear Lord Jesus in his sufferings and love made that way so that we meet together this afternoon in his fear and in his dear name.

It's not the creature. It's not the flesh. It's not the building. It's to exalt a precious Christ. It's to worship him. Have we come to worship him this day?

To draw from his fullness into our poor hearts so that we can go on in life amidst all the trials and all the temptations and difficulties.

[ 9 : 56 ] Because we want so much so to be found in this text. I never thought when the dear Lord gave me this text, I mourned because I thought, whatever can I bring out of that?

Dear Lord, do help me. What can I see in that? But when he has, for when he has tried, all the temptations that we pass through, tempted that we'd never be able to speak, tempted that we'd never be able to continue, or any of you tempted that you will not pay your bills, oh, he's a God of providence.

In these sad days when things are so different to what they once were, when we thought we had a day of prosperity. And yet, you see, what are we walking through now?

Days of temptation. To the businessman, the fear and the trembling and the temptations. Blessed is the man that endures temptation.

Take it to the dear Lord in prayer. You say to me, I wish I could pray. I can't find the dear Lord. I seek. I try to pray.

[ 11 : 09 ] I try to leave it. I try to pray. I feel bound. I feel burned. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation. These are the trials and the temptations of the family of God.

You see, we read these words, men ought always to pray, not to faint. But you see, some can always pray.

No matter whether you go to a prayer meeting or where it is, they always can pray. And they say to you, well, take it to the Lord in prayer. And you deepen your feelings, you say, if only I could, if I could find the dear Lord, if only I could lay my case before him.

Look at the family trials. I can't get near the dear Lord. I'm burdened. I walk alone. I'm distressed. I'm sinful. If only I could pray.

Pray on, dear heart. Keep groaning before him. The day will come. When you'll have such excess at his dear feet, you'll be able to unburden then your dear heart.

[ 12 : 17 ] Poor dear heart, if you're walking in these things. But he has said, blessed is the man that endures temptation. Your prayer would be up unto God. Oh, that I can endure the temptations.

I feel that I shall make shipwreck. I feel that I shall turn back. Everything's against me. Even the people of God don't understand me. I feel out of the secret.

Press on, dear heart. But if you're one of his favorites, one day he'll put his arms right round you. And all those things that he's made you pass through, you will rejoice at his dear feet.

Because you'll be brought to see all that he passed through. And all that you've passed through is nothing if you get a glimpse of him in what he has endured for you.

Oh, we would look to a precious Christ. We would look the other side now. Blessed is the man, the God-man, that endureth temptation.

[ 13 : 26 ] Oh, he bore it for a chosen race, and thus became their hiding place. This is hope for you and for me, dear heart. A hiding place in Christ.

Before the world was formed, we win the heart. The elect win the heart of God. Oh, the beauty. This dear man, that left the throne of glory and partook that human body, Christ.

In human flesh I see suffering on the cross for me. Oh, to have a glimpse what glory in this dear man.

Blessed is the man and who was more blessed than the dear Saviour. Dear Lord Jesus, what thou did suffer for me and for us to become that surety, that foundation, that hope for eternity.

Have any of you got a good hope beyond the grave or does it just reach in time things? Or is your heart well up with love to think of a good hope beyond the grave?

[ 14 : 45 ] It's coming, dear heart. Lay hold of eternal life. Press through all to lay hold of eternal life. For when he has tried he shall receive the crown of life.

And so you see, through that day's man, through the dear Mediator, through the precious Lord Jesus, you see, that is sweet to me.

He's not suffering now. But you see, you won't get away from his sufferings. What it cost him. Oh, the sin bearer for his people.

What it cost the dear Lord. Why, if your heart could be broken at his dear feet. The joy of your heart. You wouldn't be hard-hearted, would you?

You'd be so soft under a sense of his love. You see, it's possible to be in the house of God and be so hard and be thinking about something you're going to do tomorrow.

[ 15 : 53 ] We've been through it. We've known the temptations. Thought, if only we can get the service over. I've got so much on my mind to attend to. Perhaps tomorrow I'll be doing this and that.

And then you realise, don't you, the foolishness, the emptiness, earthly things. when we've got an immortal soul that must live forever. And there we are worrying about this, that and the other in the earth.

Oh, to be on the stretch after him. To have that in your heart so that you'll be safe through all the trials of this life and especially through the floods of Jordan.

Oh, that we might know that river of his love. That as we pass through the temptations and the sorrows and the fears that fill our heart.

You say, well, I never thought you was amongst them that feared. You don't know the children of God, dear heart. They're a fearing people. Fearing lest they should dare presume.

[ 16 : 56 ] Fearing lest they should take anything to themselves. They want the divine, heavenly application. They must have it from him, from the fullness of his grace.

They must have it from God himself. They cannot take anything. You'll be so disappointed when you come to the service and perhaps the poor minister's not come into your path or gone over your head or doesn't seem to come where you are.

But you see, it's sweet, isn't it? To be like the dogs under the table receiving the crumbs that fall from their master's table. Little crumbs.

You see, we used to hear the old ones say, well, I haven't got anything to do. And yet, you see, the minister, to our feelings, had preached and we thought he got on quite well but the dear old souls used to say, well, there was nothing from me.

I felt left out. There was nothing from me. Yet another time, those same dear hearers, why, they was filled with the fullness of his grace. They were on the way to the kingdom.

[ 18 : 05 ] They were so happy they'd had a crown. They'd had a little touch of the master's love and they felt that all the trials that they were passing through was to fit them for the kingdom and so will you, dear heart.

You see, blessed is the man that endures temptation and the dear Lord Jesus was so blessed that we might be blessed in and through him.

Oh, as we are led by his sweet spirit to view him in all things, his love and loveliness, to think that that same dear Jesus should have the crown of thorns, should hang upon the cross.

Oh, the ignominy. Have you ever thought, dear friends, when you've got a pie, have you ever been led to veer for one moment what the dear Lord Jesus suffered when he hung on the cross?

It's more than we can bear if we've got a soft heart, isn't it? You hear people that have got a hard heart, they can talk of these things glibly, can't they? But to the child of God where there's the foundation of his love in the heart, there's a tenderness, there is more than you can bear when you think of your dear suffering Savior hanging on the cross for you.

[ 19 : 38 ] You think of the shame, I should think that's one of the most humiliating things, isn't it? To hang on the cross. You think of the love of the Lord?

Although he was the Son of God, yet learned he obedience through the things which he suffered. Doesn't it make you want to be full of repentance and love and grace and never murmur again, never complain again, when you behold the love of God in Christ Jesus hanging on the cross for you, bearing the shame and the sorrow.

You know, sometimes we've gone to the prayer meeting and we've had to mourn afterwards when we've spoken in public prayer and we've asked the Lord to do this, that and the other and never remember the dear Savior in his sufferings.

Oh, the shame that belongs unto us, the confusion of faith when we're left to ourselves. We want to be humbled under a sense of his spirit and his grace and his love for me.

That'll do it, to feel that it was for me. Oh, I would be amongst the most tender and amongst the most loving and amongst the most forgiving of all the dear Lord's people if I could when I see what the dear Lord Jesus suffered for me.

[ 21 : 15 ] You say, how do you know? Because these things are revealed to you and they're made known by his gracious love and spirit. When we have to pass through things, you see, if the dear Lord has a favour toward us and if we're to be made useful in Zion, you see, you can walk round the outside of religion and look on and think, well, the poor people of God are always in trouble.

You see, when you have to walk right in it, in these things, what do the Psalmist say? Though I walk in the midst of trouble. You'll bless God for that in the midst of trouble.

You'll have your best blessings. Why, the dear Lord will come where you are and fill your heart with a little meekness, a little softness and tenderness and love flowing from him.

Isn't it sweet to know that it flows from him, that fullness? Christ, in all his love, letting a little of his spirit come into your poor heart.

in all these temptations, in all these sorrows and sufferings of life, we read these words and know, blessed is the man that endureth temptation.

[ 22 : 41 ] Well, we feel we could go on in this, but we must look a little forward. For when he is tried, there's several ways of looking when he is tried, but when the living family are tried and those things are brought upon us that we never looked for, losses and crosses, death, the bereavement in the families, there are those things that you walked perhaps with the children of God, but you come into trials, people are not like they once were, people change, and then you come into these heavy trials, there are those that you once walked in love with, and then you come into these heavy trials, dispensations, temptations and fears, but you see here we read, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, no one to be enabled by the grace of God to look into that crown of life, if the dear

Lord will help me in a little while, but when we look at these words for when he is tried, when we had, we felt the forgiveness, and I trust there are those dear hearts here this afternoon, that have walked in days and weeks and perhaps a month of his forgiving love, when you felt amongst the most happy upon the face of the earth, I don't mean happy in frivolity, I mean a real godliness that made your dear heart so happy, why you never thought you'd sin again, it was impossible, you couldn't find a sin, the glory of God filled your heart and you were amongst them that were happy that we mentioned this morning, behold we count them happy which endure, and so you see the dear Lord gives us a taste of these things, so that first of all we should look to him for everything and then so that whatever trial comes upon us we are given that enduring grace, you see we are told and we are exhorted in the word of

God to count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations, and so you see the child of God needs these sweet places, sweet touches of his love to establish us, otherwise you see we would be moved, the least storm that came across us if there was no depth, we'd be moved, we see our anchor holds within the veil, precious isn't it, dear heart does your anchor hold within the veil this afternoon, if it's there, it's there for always, forever, throughout eternity, the dear Lord will hold you fast, he'll never let you sink into perdition, what a beautiful word that is, but we're not of them that turn back into perdition, but believe to the saving of the soul, can we really say this afternoon, how many of us, perhaps the dear children feel left out, but how many of us can say, my anchor holds within the veil, can you say this, the wounds of Jesus for my sin, oh to being able to speak this language from the heart, you see, we can say these things so unfeelingly, but we would have a feeling religion, that feels after him every day, oh that we might grow in grace, that we might have more of his spirit, that at last we may be brought through all the floods and flames of this life, and all the temptations in his likeness to shine, if the dear Lord will help me, we'll touch upon that presently, for when he is tried,

I remember, and you will allow me to say this dear friends, we had, much to my sorrow, we were called to serve on the jury service, and yet you see, there was great teaching in that to me, we had to sit for two or three weeks on a long case, and do you know, it seems to be almost more than I could bear when I heard the sentence, for when he is tried, and you think if we have what we deserve, sinners, sinners of the deepest die, do we deserve forgiveness, and yet you know, I was brought to see there, one, standing in my place, we have an advocate before the throne of God, oh, if we did not have that advocate, one that willingly went before to bear our sentence, oh, the joy and the sorrow of my heart, for if you're tender, see, if you're hard-hearted, nothing matters, but if you're tender, oh, you wouldn't see these things, you wouldn't see one poor sinner suffer, would you?

but to have the sentence and to be led away, and have that feeling there goes, I, but for the grace of God, now I want you to see, dear friends, the grace of God, the grace, not one of us will be led away to the sentence through his grace, do you see how lovely this dear man is, that we read on, blessed is the man that endures, this, you see what the dear Lord endured for us, it's life, eternal life to a sinner, to know that we can go free, the dear Lord said, punish me and set them free, if we're led to see these things, I mean there's such a thing as being such good Christians, you never sin, you never have any doubts or fears, you never come into the depths, you never have to groan like we read of the dear man in the scriptures, out of the depths, cried I, out of the depths, you see it's not a question then is it of being good prayers, it's Lord save me or I perish, help me, help me dear Lord,

[ 29 : 54 ] I shall be in the pit, save me, you see there is a living family, there are living groans and cries from these dear people and they're led to see that this dear man, oh the dear Redeemer endured, for when he is tried, you'll come into that, to be tried, when you'll be falsely accused of things, what a solemn thing it is when no one will believe you, oh how sad, many in the earth to die are accused and convicted and locked away, and years afterwards it's proved that they were innocent, now to the child of God you see you have an advocate, one that has stood in your place, precious Jesus, why if we could love him more, oh that we could serve him better, when we're, when this revealed to you what we should suffer, what we deserve, and then to see that that sweet grace, that made the dear

Lord Jesus willing to stand in our place, for when the poor child of God is tried, after he's endured the temptations, he shall receive the crown of life, and there we know that the crown in the, the crown of the realm is almost valueless, isn't it, you cannot put a value on those things, they are irreplaceable, and so you see there's this heavenly comparison, to the child of God, and this is so sweet to me, that a poor child of God, in rags, poverty, distress, and helplessness, unworthy, a sinner, a broken hearted, a broken hearted sinner, a repenting sinner, and if you could see into a sinner's heart like that, meek and tender and full of love, these are sweet characters, sweet characters full of the

Spirit of God, why the dear Lord Jesus shines in them, he shall receive the crown of life, and the crown of life is free and sovereign grace, love, it's mercy, oh, to a hell deserving sinner, lost and ruined, to have mercy, to have bestowed upon them the crown of life, you see, we think that perhaps when we die we shall receive the crown of life, but it's in this life, you see, the dear Lord bestows upon his dear children, those that walk humble and lowly and meek and tender, and gracious and always forgiving, you see, he bestows upon them, I wonder how many dear hearts could put up their hand and say, yes, I've received the crown of life, he's placed upon me his forgiving love,

I have on me the robe of his righteousness, you see, you'll look back and you'll see perhaps twenty years of trial and struggle and difficulty, losses and crosses, I'm only using twenty years as a figure, but some of your dear hearts can look back longer and what he's enabled you to endure, and you've endured through Christ, through his grace, you see, many of the dear Lord's disciples walked back and went, turned back and walked no more with him, why?

Because they didn't have the root of the matter in them, but you see, these dear characters have the root of the matter in them because it's put there by God, isn't it sweet, to endure through him who has endured for us, he shall receive the crown of life, I know we often look at this perhaps as being the crown of life which is immortality, the blessings bestowed upon us at the end, when we enter into eternity, but you see, there's these things to enjoy now, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, what a crown of life is forgiving love is, you say, well I'm after that, oh if I knew it, if only I knew it, his forgiving love, when he whispers that sweet sentence, son, or daughter, thy sins are all forgiven, you see, we need to endure, don't we, we know not what's before us, and so, having the crown placed upon us, the crown of life, which is his love, that is his love to give, you think when the dear Lord

[ 35 : 46 ] Jesus bestows upon you, dear heart, his forgiving love, he doesn't give it today and take it away tomorrow, it's something he places on you, because he sees in you, the likeness of himself, and so you see, when you get low enough like that, he'll bestow upon you this crown of life, all the joy of his forgiving love, the preciousness, that heavenly deal, the sweetness of it, to know that a rebel becomes a favourite, an alien made a child, God, that you dear young friends in the midst of your days, those of you young, dear young friends setting out into life, I hope we're not talking a strange language to you, may the days come when the dear Lord reveals himself to you in all his glory, in the wonders of his love, because if you're a praying people, and I know that you young ones are found in the midst of a praying people, for here within these walls, you see, we have the Lord's word fulfilled that was written centuries ago, as sweet today as it was then,

I will leave in the midst of the afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord God, and so dear young friends, there's not one problem the dear Lord will not help you with if you're taught through his grace to pray, it may not be that you'll have the answers immediately, but I remember we were exhorted to pray in our young days, and in the days of poverty and losses and distress, when there was not much food after the war, and when clothes was hard to come by, we used to begin to pray, go up by the side of our bed and pray for a new pair of shoes or a new jacket to start the school term with, you see, and so we see those prayers answered, but it didn't give us the grace of life, but you see in looking back the dear Lord heard, our needs were met in those far off days, and so you dear young lads, wouldn't it be lovely in days to come if you were made manifest, you dear young people, made pillars in this house of

God, redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, made a joy to your parents so that dear parents and children are able to walk together in communion and love in the bond of the spirit, where you can talk over those heavenly things, where you can go to mother and say how are you today mother and you can communion on better things, isn't that sweet, these are the things that are the crown of life that he gives, these are the joys that he gives, you see it's not a dead religion so that we wait to the end of our days just to go into heaven, it's a path of life and prayer and grace, it's a day when we see the dear Lord's work, we know his love and appearing, the joy in our heart when we realise that a son becomes a favourite a daughter and made a child, when you put your arms around them in

Christ and you're one, dear parents walk to the floor half the night wondering where their children are, wondering, saying, dear Lord bring them home safely, are they laying in the ditch somewhere, bring them home safely, and then the day comes when you embrace one another in Christ and they're in the church, he does these things, this is the crown of life, it's not a dead religion, we want to say these things to the honour and glory of his name, bless the dear Lord for that work, you see, through floods and flames we have to go, we spoke of the temptations this morning, you pass through the temptations, you have to get these joys when he lays on you the crown of life, when he whispers that they're his, they're mine, there are those that are not his, made manifest, and that makes you struggle more earnestly, doesn't it, and pray and cry and groan that they may have the crown of life bestowed upon them, wouldn't you joy and rejoice to see all your dear children walking in love, to walking in the spirit of the Lord, so that you can share this side of the grave, those joys, we read these words, these all died in faith, not having received the promises, and I believe some of them dear old souls that laboured for us, you see, you've got to pray for those that are wayward, as well as the gold, pray on dear heart, for the wayward, and the backward, and the rebellious, for we read these words, and it's sweet, isn't it, is he for my dear son, for since I spoke against him,

I do earnestly remember him still, and so you see, one of these days these poor Ephraims return, sad if you've never prayed for them, wouldn't he, but if you've prayed and shed tears and been in this path of temptation, after all the blessings when they was little children, and you tucked them up in bed, you had sorrows then in their afflictions, but when you see them, their bed empty, and wonder where they are, won't you rejoice then to see them walking in the truth, when these temptations that you've passed through, and the fires, and the floods, and the distress, and when the dear Lord lays upon them, for he said he shall receive the crown of life, a dear wayward son, he shall receive the crown of life, we know those that have their dear partners, that are strangers, you see there's things in the path of a child of



[ 43 : 03 ] God, and that's why I would speak a word in such tender love to the young, seek earnestly to find a partner that fears God, oh the joy, this is the crown of life that the dear Lord will lay upon you, pray earnestly, pray earnestly, for you might be in unregenerate days and think well it doesn't matter, I haven't got the life of God, I don't know what the man's talking about, but if the Lord has a favour to you, and you have to walk as strangers, oh the sorrows that some of the dear children of God have to pass through, be not unequally yoked together, oh that we've ever caused to praise God for a dear God-fearing partner, for if the dear Lord had left us to have all their own way, I'm sure we should have been in the pit, but for free and sovereign grace, oh how lovely it is to be found in the text we trust, for when he has tried he shall receive the crown of life, oh what must that crown of life be to those dear children of God that have perhaps been in the way 30, 40, 50 years and had such a hard path, such temptations and sorrows and distress, and you see, and yet they endure, they are helped to endure, because their feet are on the rock, dear rock isn't it, they're not left to slip, often times it's the prayer from your heart, hold thou me up and

I shall be saved, and when my spirit is overwhelmed within me, lead me to the rock that is higher than I, you'll give so much energy and strength in your prayers to know that you're on the rock, it won't be something flippant, something that's flesh pleasing, it won't be something that you can just say and then go off for a couple of days and no more prayer, it's lead me to the rock, a cry from the heart, a groan, lead me to the rock that is higher than I, some of you dear older ones, you say within yourself my life is spent, I'm drawing near the end, I do want to know that I'm on the rock, I do want the dear Lord to put his arms round me, I want him to whisper his love to me and tell me that I'm safe, to tell me that I'm safe for eternity, that heaven is my portion, that our little life that is as a vapour that will soon be gone, the child of God must know again and again, they don't rest complacent, some of you dear ones have seen loved ones on the bed of languishing, drawing near the end of life's little day, what are they after, awfully things?

No, what do they say? Oh, to know that my name is in the Lamb's book of life, to know that my sins are pardoned, perhaps David walked in his pardoning love, but they want it renewed before they die, they want the dear Lord to come again and whisper such sweet words to them, and there they lie, day and night, and you visit them and they say he hasn't come, so there is a reality in real religion, but you see, when you see on them that the dear Lord has bestowed upon them the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him, you see, it's not a one way love, his love flowing into our hearts, his love over the children of God, over the house of God, over the dear families and over the little children,