

Like Tempered Steel **James 1:12-18**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Among unwelcome truths: difficulty leads to growth/maturity (I Pet.1:7)
- 0.2 Starting verse (v.12) today: “Blessed...steadfast under trial...stood the test...crown of life”

1.0 Tempered Steel

- 1.1 Precious metals get processed for purity: e.g. gold & silver
- 1.2 Steel strengthened – via *tempering*
- 1.3 Evident in the Japanese *katana*

2.0 Tempering People

- 2.1 Tempered by “trials” (v.12) – but of what sort?
- 2.2 What kinds of testing are in view here? (incl. v.14)
- 2.3 Though God *tests*, he does *not tempt* (v.13) See also vv.14-15 for reflection

3.0 The Temperament of God

- 3.1 “Father of light(s), with whom is no variation of shadow” (v.17b)
- 3.2 “He brought us forth by the Word of Truth” (v.18a)
- 3.3 Long term plans: people as “first fruits of Creation” (v.18b)
- 3.4 “He is the Source of every good & perfect gift” (v.17a)

4.0 The Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 Keep before your eyes our perfect, loving and most holy God
- 4.2 Consider what *kinds* of pressure are tempering *you* these days
- 4.3 Remember you are in process (*semper reformanda*) – as is your fellowship

Next week (Feb.14) – Hands On
James 1:19-27

James 1:12-18 (NASB)

¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

¹³ No one is to say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers *and sisters*. ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. ¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.