

RUSSELL SANDERS

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OUR REWARDS IN HEAVEN – PART 4

THE VICTOR'S CROWN OF LIFE

The Victor's Crown of Life is given to believers who successfully endure the trials, temptations, and testings here in this life. It is about enduring the difficult times and remaining faithful through all of it.

James 1:2-3 (NIV) says, ***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”***

God does not abandon us during those hard times, even if you feel like he did. I Corinthians 10:17 (NIV) says, ***“No temptation (trial or testing) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”*** Yes, God will make a way where there seems to be no way. Trust Him.

James 1:12 (NIV) says, ***“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive The Crown of Life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”***

This is reaffirmed even in the worst of circumstances in Revelation 2:10 (NIV) where Jesus himself said to the Apostle John, ***“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you; the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution...(but) be faithful, even to the point of (being put to) death, and I will give you life as your Victor's Crown.”***

Do not think that severe persecution cannot come upon us in this present time. It is surely coming; the Bible tells us so. Freedom of religion in America has been gradually disappearing, and now so at an accelerated pace. Our Department of Homeland Security has even put the “terrorist” designation on Evangelical Christians. We are at a point where all religions and philosophies are accepted, except the Christian Faith. We are being increasingly viewed as “the bad guys.” Persecution and testing are coming. Do not be deceived into thinking we shall escape it.

Be faithful, pray, and trust God to bring you strength to endure. Philippians 4:13 says (KJV), ***“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*** This was written from the context of enduring difficulty, not from the working of miracles as sometimes taught. Jesus gives us strength to endure the hard times. This will assure us of receiving the Victor's Crown of Life.