

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**  
**MINISTRY SCHOOL**  
**SESSION 48: REWARDS PART 1**

Rewards are called “Crowns” in the New Testament. We will be studying **the Crown of Life, the Crown Incorruptible, the Crown of Rejoicing, the Crown of Righteousness, and the Crown of Glory.**

There is a vast difference in the doctrine of salvation for the lost, and the doctrine of rewards for the saved.

Salvation is “the gift of God: not of works” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is received by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:36). Rewards are according to the works of the believer (Matt. 16:27).

A most revealing scripture on rewards is found in I Cor. 3:8-15.

**First** every believer will be rewarded according to his own labor (I Cor. 3:8). We do not labor for salvation.

**Second**, “we are labourers together with God” (I Co.r 3:9) – not for salvation, but for rewards.

**Third**, the believer is to build on the Lord Jesus Christ, the only foundation (I Cor. 3:11).

**Fourth**, the believer has a choice of two kinds of building materials: “gold, silver, precious stones” – this is building with eternal materials; or we can choose “wood, hay, stubble” – this is building with temporal materials (I Cor. 3:12, and II Cor. 4:18).

The believer who builds on Christ with eternal materials, “gold, silver, precious stones,” shall receive a reward. Those who build on Christ with temporal materials, “wood, hay, stubble,” will receive no reward. The “wood, hay, stubble” works will be destroyed at the “judgment seat of Christ,” and the believer will suffer loss – not the loss of salvation, but the loss of eternal reward.

Some believers will be ashamed at the “judgment seat of Christ (I John 2:28) – ashamed of their works of “wood, hay, stubble.”

## THE CROWN OF LIFE

### **James 1:12**

*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.*

This reward could be called **the lover's crown**. Upon examination of the above verse, we discover the believer finds strength to overcome temptation and endure trials, through the love of God. Paul said in Romans 5:3 *"we glory in tribulations also."*

The question is: do we today glory in tribulations? We can, only if the *"love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit"* (Rom. 5:3-5). Without the love of God in the heart of the believer, trials can cause him to become bitter and critical and lose the "crown of life."

All believers have eternal life (John 3:15, 16), but not all believers will be rewarded with the "crown of life." This crown will be given to those who are *"faithful unto death"* (Rev. 2:10).

To receive the "crown of life," the believer must love the Lord more than his own life.

*"Whosoever shall save his life (live for self) shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's (live for Christ at all cost) the same shall save it"* (Mark 8:35). This reward will be given to those who live for Christ, and endure temptations, in the power of the love of God (I Cor. 10:13).

A man once sat at the bedside of a dying friend. As they talked of his home-going, tears filled the dying man's eyes. Being young in the Lord the man thought his friend was afraid of dying, and he attempted to speak words of encouragement to him. He said, "I am not afraid to die; I am ashamed to die." He went on to say that Christ was his Saviour, but he had lived for self, and now had to meet the Lord Jesus Christ empty-handed. His life loomed up before him, as "wood, hay, stubble." He was "saved so as by fire".