36 GOING for THE 5 crowns of the believer DR. DAVID JEREMIAH

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **Revelation 22:12**

5 CROWNS of the Believer

You might think, *What kinds of rewards are we going to get in heaven?* The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about it, but it does tell us there are some rewards for which we may qualify. And I want to just give you a few of them to whet your appetite.

There are five crowns that are listed in the New Testament. These are not by any means the only rewards that will be distributed in heaven. But above all, it is important to remember that the Lord Himself is our chief reward. No crown could ever compare to the splendor of seeing our Lord and Savior face to face.

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THE CROWN OF VICTORY

Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1 Corinthians 9:25

RECIPIENTS

Awarded to those who exercise self-discipline.

ABOUT THE CROWN:

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul calls the crown of victory "an imperishable crown" and compares it to the perishable wreaths for which athletes competed in the Greek games. Paul's point is that winning a race requires training, discipline, and sacrifice. And if athletes work so diligently to win a perishable crown, how much more motivated should we be as Christians to win an imperishable crown from God? If we are to win the crown of victory, we too must practice discipline and sacrifice.

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THE CROWN OF REJOICING

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **1 Thessalonians 2:19**

RECIPIENTS

Awarded to those who have led others to Christ.

ABOUT THE CROWN:

Sometimes called "the soul-winner's crown," the crown of rejoicing is the crown that Almighty God gives to us when we reach out to others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. When Paul was talking to the Thessalonians, he said, in effect, "Thessalonians, let me tell you what the crown of rejoicing is: It's you! Because we ministered to you. And someday, when we stand before the Lord, you're going to be there because we had a ministry to you." Some people in the Church are constant witnesses; they talk to people all the time about Jesus, and they're candidates for this crown.

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THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2 Timothy 4:8**

RECIPIENTS

Awarded to those who have a longing for the Lord Jesus and look for His return.

ABOUT THE CROWN:

Paul was prepared to meet the Lord, and he was certain of his own imminent death as he wrote the second letter to Timothy. Like Paul, some people have their heart set on heaven and on seeing Jesus Christ. Those are the people that will win the crown of righteousness, because they love and long for the appearing of the Lord.

THE CROWN OF LIFE

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

RECIPIENTS

Awarded to those who have endured and triumphed over trial, temptation, & persecution.

ABOUT THE CROWN:

Many believers have endured and triumphed over trial and temptation and persecution, even to the point of martyrdom. And the motivation for doing so has to be love for the Lord. In the early days of heaven, those people will be walking around with the crown of life, because they endured trials and suffering and honored God in the midst of it.

THE CROWN OF GLORY

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. **1 Peter 5:4**

RECIPIENTS

Awarded to those who are faithful shepherds of God's flock.

ABOUT THE CROWN:

God has one out of the five crowns reserved for those who are in leadership and who are faithful shepherds of God's people. And you know what? You don't have to be a pastor or even on a church staff to earn it. Maybe you shepherd a small group—you are a facilitator and you shepherd that group and care about and pray for the people that come every week. You are in the running for "the shepherd's crown"—the crown of glory.

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1. Reject the Misconceptions About Rewards We are not saved by good works, but for good works.

2. Remember That the Lord Is Your Reward

No matter what we may receive in heaven, the Lord Himself remains our greatest reward.

3. Resist Doing Work Outwardly for a Reward

Don't serve the Lord just for the purpose of receiving a reward. Serve Him because you love Him.

4. Reflect Upon the Ultimate Goal of Rewards

One day we will give our crowns to the Lord Jesus as offerings of worship and praise. And we won't want to be emptyhanded!

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