

# **Count It**

# **All Joy**

1-2-22

James 1:2–3 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**Possibly one of the earliest of the New Testament writings (A.D. 40–50), the book was written by Jesus’ brother James. The apostle James was killed much earlier by Herod. James is like the NT book of Proverbs. Many have claimed that James and the apostle Paul differed on the question of faith versus works, but in reality, the spiritual fruit that James talks about simply demonstrates the true faith of which Paul wrote. Their writings are complementary rather than contradictory. On December 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, we learned some powerful things about prayer, “You have whatever you ask in prayer.” But this Scripture that points out that we will go through various trials which is also true. These trials are necessary. Therefore, when we go through trials, “We count it all joy!” One reason trials are necessary is because they produce steadfastness which means we learn not to quit and finish well. Steadfastness is a necessary fundamental Christian truth.**

James 1:4 (ESV)

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**In our various trials, through our steadfastness God is working power within us and around us. Our not quitting enables God to bring HIS full intended effect so that we will be perfect and complete, lacking nothing! Therefore, naturally, we count it all joy when we have various trials.**

**Now I want us to look at Romans 4:3-4, where the apostle Paul total agrees with James.**

Romans 5:3–4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

**Here we rejoice in our sufferings! Why? Sufferings produces endurance. We learn to stand in faith and not quit. The literal word for endurance is interesting. It means, “patience under pressure” or “remaining under”! Importantly, endurance, not quitting, produces character. Character means learning from experience or possessing values that have been tested.**

**Character is our living demonstration. It is our experience of standing with God. Our character produces hope. Hope is based on our experience with God which produces an assurance in God or hope in God. Therefore, we joyfully, expect God to act. Therefore, when we face trials, we count it all joy because we have the assurance God will act.**

**We all have trials, so we all have opportunities to rejoice. This also is very important to understand in our prayer life. While our prayers are in the process of being answered, God is developing endurance, character, and the assurance to trust God in our lives. Some of us learn faster than others.**

**All this endurance, character, and assurance is based solely on Jesus! All we have is based on Jesus!**

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV)

Because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.