

“Count It All Joy” #4

October 4, 2026

Last Week:

James 1:12 - *“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.”*

- What’s the difference between temptation and testing?
 - Temptation is an invitation to disobey God.
 - Testing is an opportunity to trust and obey God.
 - God tests....satan tempts
 - Temptation seeks to draw you away from the Father
 - Testing is the opportunity to draw near to the Father
 - Temptation asks: Will you disobey God?
 - Testing asks: Will you trust God?
 - He wants to ‘show’ you how to allow your faith to work
 - He knows what He’s doing - It’s up to you to figure it out!
 - Overcoming temptation is one of the greatest ‘stepping stones’ to the greater Kingdom life!

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above”

James 1:16-18 - *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*

- Don’t be deceived by the trickery of the enemy with his attempts to entice you away from the will of the Lord with his temptations
- Every good gift and every perfect gift - The Father only gives good gifts
- The enemy has a unique way of making the wrong things look good
- He appeals to to the flesh and our ‘old nature’
- How do you appropriate the gifts from the Father? - - By faith
- The devil in his attempts to counterfeit the goodness of God, is known as a liar and the ‘father’ of lies
- He’s good at what he does; the more spiritual maturity you ‘walk in’, the more deceptive he tries to be

- **1 John 2:16** - *“For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”*
- All the devil’s temptations will come in one or more of these three ways:
- **Adam & Eve in the Garden**
 - Attempt to cast doubt - - *“Did God really say that?”*
 - Lust of the flesh - Eve saw that the tree was ‘good for food’
 - The lust of the eye - ‘pleasant to the eyes’
 - The boastful pride of life - ‘desirable to make one wise’
- **Jesus in the Wilderness**
 - Attempt to cast doubt - - *“If you’re the Son of God....”* - -
 - Lust of the flesh - ‘turn these stones to bread’
 - Lust of the eyes - ‘all the kingdoms of the world can be yours’
 - Boastful pride of life - ‘He shall give His angels charge over you’
- His temptations are to cause you to compromise the perfect will of God
- He appeals to logic;
- Your insurance - - *“Draw near to God and He’ll draw near to you”; “Resist the devil and he’ll flee from you”*
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** - *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...”*
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** - *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*
- He’s a formidable foe; but when you follow the lead of the Spirit he’s no match for you - - and he knows it!
- *“He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*
- **1 Peter 2:9** - *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*
- You, and what the Lord’s doing in you is the ‘evidence’ to the world that God exists....and He’s active in obedient lives today!

- **James 1:19-20** - *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; or the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”*
- Context: James is still talking about temptation
- *Swift to hear* - Pay attention to the Spirit; listen w/Spiritual ears
- *Slow to speak* - Watch your words! - - Don't let your words lead you down the wrong path
- *Slow to wrath* - Be cautious when it comes to relational issues; Don't react with your old nature
- *“The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”*
- The Father will let us act/react in the flesh if we're determined to do so
- But, you're on your own without the help of the Holy Spirit
- You'll likely have a mess to clean up
- **Galatians 5:16** - *“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*
- **The Payoff: 1 Peter 1:7** - *“That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*
- **James 1:22** - *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*
- We're producing 'doers of the Word' around here - Equipped for the work of the ministry.

Next week:

James 1:26 - *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”*