

“Count It All Joy” #2

September 13, 2026

Last Week:

- James writes from personal experience
- To: the twelve tribes scattered abroad
- Experiencing intense testing and trials
- Because of their devotion/connection to Jesus
- Count it all joy
 - By faith - counting it joy defies logic!
 - Testing produces patience
 - Testing is inevitable, and....it is necessary
 - The Father's tests: Areas where we're not like Jesus....yet!
 - **Romans 8:28** - *“All things work together for the good....”*
 - The Father loves us enough to allow us to go through the harshest of human circumstances to get us where we 'need' to be **(the center of His will)*. AT
 - And....to bring us into our true identity
 - Counting it all joy says to the Father, *“I trust that You're doing something profound (necessary) in me, even if I can't see what it is at the moment”*
 - How do you count it all joy? - - Say, *“Thank you”* in the midst of your trials
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:18**- *“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”*
 - It's an extreme statement of faith! - - He loves that!
 - If your dilemma happens to be a demonic attack, you must know that nothing is as frustrating, devastating to them as this!
 - You'll have plenty of opportunities in life, what will you do with them?

“Let patience have its perfect work”

James 1:4 - *“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

Hebrews 5:8-9 - *“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”*

- We learn patience and obedience just like Jesus did,through the things in which we suffer
- **1 Peter 4:12-13** - *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy"*
- **2 Timothy 3:12** - *"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"*
- **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"*
- Is it worth it? - - If so, what are the benefits?
- We learn 'Who' He is - - We learn 'who' we are
- We learn He can be trusted, even in the most trying of circumstances
- He became the source of eternal salvation **(Hebrews 5 above)*
- You become a source of hope and encouragement for those around you as you endure trials, suffering and affliction
- That's letting patience have its perfect work
- *"....that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing"*
- Grown up, seasoned, proven, established, steady, mature **(conformed into the image of Jesus)*
- Patience: We learn to 'rest' in the 'work' of the Father
- **Matthew 11:28-29** - *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*
- **Hebrews 4:9** - *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."*
- **Psalms 37:7** - *"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him..."*
- **Psalms 46:10** - *"Be still, and know that I am God..."*
- **Isaiah 26:3** - *"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.""*
- Our trials offer some of the great opportunities in life to draw nearer to God
- *"By faith, and counting it all joy in the midst of your trials, you're placing your entire being in the hands of the Father. I don't know what He's going to do in your case, but I do know He's going to gloriously deliver you!then,it'll all make sense!" AT*

“If any of you lacks wisdom”

James 1:5 - *“If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God Who gives to all, liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him”*

- It's always sensible to ask for wisdom - - It's also a request I think the Father loves to answer
- He loves for us to ask - - He cares about dialogue with us - - He wants us to have, use His wisdom
- But in the context of this letter it's referring to asking for wisdom concerning the trial we're experiencing
- *“What are You trying to teach me? - - What do I need to learn here?”*
- He gives wisdom to all, liberally and without reproach - Without criticism, chastising or holding our past, or our mistakes against us
- Says twice He will give to us this wisdom - He wants us to tap into,the mind of Christ!
- Remember,He's Father; fathers always want their children to succeed

James 1:6-8 - *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

- Let your confession reflect what you have prayed for
- Your words are a key to answered prayers
- In your situation now, do you lack wisdom?