

“Count It All Joy” #3

September 27, 2026

Last Week:

Let patience have its perfect work

- We learn obedience through the challenges in life
- While patience is not listed as one of the fruit of the Spirit, long-suffering is
- Long-suffering - The ability to remain patient under prolonged pressure, or difficult circumstances without retaliating or giving up.
- 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
- **Romans 5:1-5** - *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*
- 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 - your faith is being perfected!
- That's allowing an unpleasant circumstance to bring about something good
- That's what happens when we 'count it all joy, ...by FAITH!
- Diamonds are produced under great heat and pressure
- *"....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
- Revelation: We shouldn't pray to get out of our uncomfortable situation as much as we should pray that the 'perfect work' James talks about has its full effect on us.

If any of you lacks wisdom

- 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
- Remember, ...He's Father; fathers always want their children to succeed

James 1:9"Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation"

- **Matthew 5:11-12** - *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*
- **Philippians 1:29-30** - *"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me."*
- It is an honor to be dishonored for the sake of Christ.
- There's no distinction between rich and poor in the Kingdom
- The Father blesses both
- The poor are not disadvantaged, and the rich are not privileged.
- Our value in the Kingdom is not determined by what we have/don't have
The Kingdom gives dignity to the lowly and humility to the wealthy.
- The poor learn that their circumstances don't define them; the rich learn that their possessions don't define them.
- Both find their identity in the Father, not in their position.
- The Kingdom turns worldly status upside down.
- What the world considers exaltation may require humility, and what the world considers humiliation may actually be exaltation.
- The Kingdom doesn't measure a person's worth by their earthly position; it measures them by their relationship with the Father.

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.”*

- Temptation - We are drawn away by our own desires and enticed
- Our old nature (*the old man/vs the new man*) is subject to be manipulated by the enemy
- He knows just how to lie to us to drag us back into old attitudes/habits
- 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!
- **2 Corinthians 2:11** - *“....we are not ignorant of the enemy’s devices”*
- Does the Father allow temptation?
 - Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil
 - The Father may lead you into (or it may be of your own doing) situations where temptation is a possibility but he doesn’t tempt you
 - Opportunity for you to exercise faith
 - To allow you to ‘grow up’
 - To reveal your heart
 - To train you how to have victory over the forces of darkness
 - You’re going to be dealing with it your entire life
 - The enemy hates what’s happening with you
 - If you can learn to see it this way: this is the Father’s way of showing the enemy the results of a yielded life to Him
 - It’s one of His greatest ways to show the devil Who’s running the show
 - *“Have you considered my servant Job?”*

- These things serve as a great reminder to all the forces of darkness that their attempts to drag you down are failing
- The devil hates this with his deepest degree of hatred!!
- The Father loves it! - - Seeing His children overcome must be one of His greatest delights!!
- Think of it from the devil's perspective: even one of the Father's '*little children*' can defeat him!
- And, how is the most practical means of overcoming, the most devastating thing to the enemy, the most life giving thing to you and the most fulfilling, satisfying thing to the Father?
- **It's when you '*count it all joy*' when you fall into various trials!!**