

“Count It All Joy”

September 13, 2026

Last Week:

- *“The Simplicity, Relevance, Power and Purity of the First Church”*
- The church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost
- They met daily in the temple (Solomon’s Porch)
- And,from house to house
- Simple: No Bible, building, pastor, etc
- Relevance: Meeting the deep spiritual needs of the culture
- Power: Great signs and wonders; people were find that God could use them too
- Purity: People were ‘getting right’ with God;
- “The Lord added to the church daily, those that should be saved”
- Two things: The corporate gathering; the meeting in the house
- We’re moving into the same model ASAP

“Count It All Joy”

James 1:2-3 - *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*

- James’ Letter - Who, what, why?
 - James = the brother of Jesus
 - **John 7:5** - *“For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”*
 - He became a believer after the resurrection
 - James became one of the chief leaders in the church in Jerusalem
 - **Acts 15** - The Council in Jerusalem - James spoke in behalf of the apostles and elders
 - Paul & Barnabas traveled to Jerusalem to report what God was doing among the Jews find out what to do about the Judaizers
 - Coincides with Paul’s letter to the Galatians
 - His letter to the twelve tribes scattered abroad - After the persecution
 - They were undergoing severe pressure, hardship, affliction
 - Many to the point of departing from the faith

The testing of your faith produces patience

- James isn’t just writing to express a theory. He was writing from experience
- He had learned firsthand that:

- We get our faith tested - He was persecuted because of his devotion to Jesus **(by the Romans and the Jews)*
- Testing: He loves to test our faith, tested in areas we're not like Jesus
- If we submit to the testing, patience is produced
- Patience produces maturity
- Maturity comes from being seasoned in testing and trials
- It's through trials our character is formed
- *"....being conformed into the image of Jesus"*
- Your identity as a son/daughter is formed and shaped
- Faith is only perfected when it's tested
- The Father wants you to know:
 - The powerful quality of your faith
 - He can be trusted - relationship with Him is deepened
 - Things are going to work out - All things work together for good
 - You're going to overcome - You're more than a conqueror
 - You're a '*channel*', through which the Kingdom comes! - *"....Christ in you, the hope of glory"*
 - The '*conduit*' through which the power comes! **(these signs....)*
- **Count it all joy**
 - Rejoice, be happy
 - The apostles were beaten but considered it a blessing! Acts 5
 - How do you do that? - - Say, "Thank you"
 - By faith - you're agreeing that your test is bringing out the best in you
 - The Father loves you enough to allow you to go through the harshest of experiences in life to bring out the best in you (make you like Jesus)
 - Your trial is not to break you - - It's to make you!
 - Can you....count it all joy??