

James: The Truth About Trials

April 30, 2023.

James 1:2-4
Pastor Cory Anderson

Introduction:

James 1:2-4: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

1. Trials must be faced with _____ (v.2a).

“Count it all joy, my brothers...”

2. Trials come as an _____ part of life (v.2a).

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds...”

3. Trials come in a _____ of _____ (v.2b).

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds...”

4. Trials come to _____ our _____ (v.3a).

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

5. Trials come to make us _____ and _____ (v.3b-4).

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Conclusion:

Community Group Questions:

1. Is James teaching that we should have joy over every trial we face in life (Jam. 1:2)? For example, are we supposed to be joyful about a tragedy? If not, what does he mean when he says to 'count it all joy when you meet trials...'?
2. How is what James states in v.2 connected with what he says in v.3-4? You can count it all joy *because...*?
3. When facing trials, 1 Peter 1:6 refers to two emotional responses that exist simultaneously in the believer. What are they? How is it possible to have both emotions at the same time?
4. What do the following passages teach us about how we should respond to trials? (Hab. 3:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:6; Acts 16:16-25).
5. What else should we seek to do when facing trials? (1 Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20).
6. Sometimes there is a huge gap between what we know and how we live, and this is true when we face trials of various kinds. Think of a current or recent trial and share how you handled it. Be vulnerable and admit if you failed or struggled to do what James tells us to do. What might you try to do differently? What do you think you need in your life to handle trials the way James describes?

Next Week: James 1:2-12 Part 2