



Study Guide: The Joy of Endurance

Sermon Topic: Edurance

Link: <https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-02-22-count-it-all-joy>

Scripture Focus	Preacher	Date
James 1:1-8	Steve Haney	February 22, 2026

The opening of the book of James, highlights how faith is refined through trials. Use these daily reflections to stay grounded in the message.

Understanding the Context

- **The Author:** James, the brother of Jesus and a pillar of the Jerusalem church, identifies himself simply as a "servant of God."
- **The Audience:** The "12 tribes in the dispersion"—Jewish Christians who had been scattered due to intense persecution.
- **The Goal:** To encourage believers to remain unshakable in their faith, regardless of their circumstances.

Day 1: Redefining Joy

Reflect: James 1:2-3 says to "count it all joy" when facing trials. This doesn't mean being "happy" about the pain, but finding joy in the *outcome*—the strengthening of your faith.

Practice: Identify one "small" frustration today. Instead of reacting with irritation, take a breath and tell yourself, "This is an opportunity for my faith to grow."

Day 2: The Purpose of the Test

Reflect: Think about the "exam" analogy from the sermon. Tests aren't just for grades; they show you what you know and where you need to improve. Trials show us the current strength of our faith.

Practice: Reflect on a past trial you successfully navigated. How did that experience prepare you for where you are today?

Day 3: Asking for Wisdom

Reflect: If you lack wisdom in how to handle a trial, James 1:5 promises that God gives it generously.

Practice: In your prayer today, ask specifically for "wisdom" rather than just "relief" from a current challenge. Ask for the discernment to see what God is teaching you.

Day 4: Stability in the Storm

Reflect: James 1:6 compares doubting to being a "wave of the sea, tossed by the wind." Contrast this with building your house on the Rock.

Practice: What is one area of your life where you feel "double-minded" or unstable? Write it down and consciously commit to trusting God's word in that specific area today.

Day 5: Enduring the Small Things

Reflect: "We have to endure the small things so that we can endure the big things." Like an athlete's training, our daily persistence builds the spiritual muscle needed for life's major hurdles.

Practice: Do one difficult but "right" thing today that you've been avoiding (e.g., a hard conversation, a chore, or a discipline). View it as "endurance training."

Day 6: The Value of Community

Reflect: In this sermon, Steve reminded us that "we need each other every single day." Isolation is a hurdle to endurance.

Practice: Reach out to one person from your church family today. Offer a word of encouragement or ask how you can pray for them as they face their own trials this week.