

# Sermon Outline

## COUNT IT ALL JOY

JAMES 1:2-12

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### 1. Introduction

Life (for believers or non-believers alike) is full of trials. Can we honestly count it all joy as James advises Christians (*'my brothers'* – verse 2) when they faced with trials?

### 2. The two reasons James gave us why we can think positively and count it all joy when faced with trials and suffering (vs. 2 – 5).

'meet' (KJV: 'fall') in Greek: *peripeseete*; *peri* = peripheral, on the side; *piptoo* = to fall. Hence, it describes a person who unknowingly meets trials.

'various kinds' = 'various colours', seemingly attractive and not attractive trials.

'trial' (*peirasmos*; *peira* means experience in modern Greek).

'Count it *all* joy' – all things, all experiences; we ought not to divide our experiences into pleasant and unpleasant ones.

'Count it' = think forward, consider the future. Trial by itself is not all joy!

a) The testing of our faith produces steadfastness (*hypomonee*; *hupo* = under, *menoo* = to abide, to stay) (vs. 3, 4). 'Steadfastness' does not only mean the passive ability to stand firm under pressure. But it is the active ability to turn trials to greatness and to glory. And the final goal, the full effect of it, is that we may be spiritually mature.

b) God will provide us wisdom necessary to overcome trials when we ask in faith and humility (v. 5).

3. James' chosen illustration using one of the actual trials that were going on among the people to whom James wrote (vs. 9 – 11).
  - Whether poor or rich, all face trials in lives. The problems of prosperity are as keen as those of poverty.
  - Earthly wisdom will tell us that economic disparity which causes conflict in church should be avoided at all cost – we should seek equality. So some teach that there should be no poverty among Christians (prosperity Gospel).
  - James, with wisdom from above, makes no endeavor to eradicate these classes. He advises both to 'boast' or 'rejoice' – count it all joy!
  - For the poor, they are to forget all their earthly poverty and rejoice because they have been set free and exalted in Christ Jesus as sons.
  - For the rich, they are to forget their earthly riches because their riches will not last “*like a flower of the grass he will pass away.*” And for the rich when they fall from the height and lose their riches, it will be more painful and devastating like when the grass’ “*flower falls, and its beauty perishes.*”
  
4. The promise of God to those who endure (v. 12).

Those who love God and endure will receive the “*crown of life.*”