



COUNT
IT ALL
JOY

James 1:2-3

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him.

Count It All Joy



Scripture

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

James 1:2-3

James, the brother of Jesus, is writing to believers scattered throughout the region who were suffering persecution. Historians date this letter between A.D. 45-50. The readers were facing real trials. They were facing persecution for their faith and many were living in poverty.

Read the verses again. James is telling these impoverished, persecuted people to be joyful.

WORD STUDY

The Greek word for “count” in this passage is **hegeomai** (hay-ge'-om-ahee). It means to lead or command, to deem or consider. Most study guides point out that “Count it all joy” doesn't mean ‘be happy when you meet trials’ — it means ‘consider what you know and make the decision to be joyful,’ even through the tears. The same Greek word is used in several passages and translated as “Chief” and “Governor” (leader, have the rule over).

The Greek word for “meet” is **peripipto** (per-ee-pip'-to) and it means ‘to fall into something that is all around.’

The Greek word for “steadfastness” in this passage is **hupomone** (hoop-om-on-ay'). It means ‘enduring patience.’

There is one more word to review. It seems insignificant, but in verse 3, James says ‘you know that.’ The Greek word here is **ginosko** (ghin-occe'-ko) and it means ‘to absolutely know’ or ‘be sure of’.

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What it Means

James isn't saying: 'you had some bad things happen, but, hey, be happy.' He is saying that even when you are surrounded by difficulties, trials, tests; when you're likely *feeling* less than joyful — that is the time to command yourself, to make a deliberate choice, to be joyful. James isn't telling you how to *feel* — he is telling you how to *be*. And, you can do this, because you absolutely know, because you are sure, that these trials will make you stronger.

Read Romans 5:3-5. “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

The word in this passage from Romans, 'endurance,' is the same word that was translated as steadfastness in our verses James 1:2-3. The Greek word meaning: patience. In Romans, Paul is expressing a nearly identical sentiment to the Romans — rejoice in our sufferings, because God will use them to strengthen our faith.

Keep reading:

In 1 Peter 1:6-9, Peter delivers the same message.

Three apostles, one message — rejoice, even in difficult times.

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Discern the Truth

Sometimes we think, or we are told, that as Christians, we shouldn't feel sadness or frustration. Some doubters may even use our sadness to question our faith, asking us 'where is your God now?' But, we know! God is with us, always.

Scripture doesn't say 'don't be sad' or 'don't feel all the feelings' and it certainly doesn't say that you won't have hard times. Scripture tells us that even in the hard times, rejoice in the Lord because you know He is faithful through it all.

Joy isn't the absence of sadness and it isn't the same as happiness. Happiness is fleeting — it is situational. Joy is knowing that God is faithful in all seasons and through all trials. When you're under fire, facing hardships, or going through a difficult season, it is okay to feel all the human emotions. It is not okay to live in them and let them overtake you. You're still God's child. Rejoice through the tears knowing that God is faithful always. James (and Paul, and Peter) tell us to make the decision, in that painful moment, to find joy in your heart and draw closer to God. Your faith will be strengthened if you do.

Ask yourself: When you're going through difficult times, is your first response to complain and ask yourself why God, if He were so loving, would allow such a thing to happen? Or, do you rejoice in the Lord, through your tears, knowing that He is faithful, always?

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalms 118:24

You can be unhappy in the moment and make the choice to rejoice in the Lord.

God is good, all the time.

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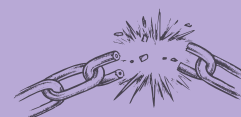
James 1:2-3

Observe & Apply

You pray for guidance through the hard times. You pray for safety and comfort. You know you can trust God and you try to trust Him, without question, even when life feels heavy. But in the darkest moments, it seems impossible that anything good could result from the pain. In those moments, do you command joy or do you grumble, question God, and throw yourself a pity party?

- Think about the last trial you faced. Did you go through it feeling the sadness but commanding joy or did you moan and groan and question God’s faithfulness?
- What does James 1:2-3 reveal about the difference between pretending everything is fine and choosing to see God’s purpose in the pain?
- If you chose to count your trials as joy the next time hardship knocks, what is one thing you would do differently? How might that choice help inspire others to draw closer to God?

When we obey this command, we don’t just experience personal growth — we quietly model for others what it looks like to live **Safe in Christ**



I launched EnsnaredLife.com with a desire to curate honest, truth-telling content alongside simple, purposeful things that strengthen a woman’s walk with Christ or just add a little sunshine into the day. I am not a theologian or a professional blogger. I just wanted to learn something new while seeking wisdom and discernment every single day.

I value any time when I can sit alone, or in a small group, and study God’s word, but I really wanted something that I could truly grab onto — something deeper than a quick devotional, more meaningful than what’s usually on the shelf, yet still doable in the middle of real life. Most of all, I wanted it to be honest, without watering down or ignoring hard truths.

After much prayer about where to take this project, these **Daily Moments of Discernment** are the result. I pray that these short, standalone moments point you straight back to Scripture and help you live **Safe in Christ** — free from the snares that easily entangle us (Proverbs 29:25).

Thank you for supporting this project and thank God for the inspiration to create it.

Unless otherwise noted:

- All scripture citations are taken from the 2001 ESV translation.
- Word studies and cross-references are from the Crossway ESV Study Bible or the e-Sword Bible app.
- Interpretations are my own, guided first by prayer and then by the many reference books and Bible translations on my shelf and, when helpful, an internet search to check a fact.

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