

# Count it All Joy

## I. Introduction

A. The Holy Spirit teaches that even in the midst of trials, the faithful Christian has reason for rejoicing. **James 1:2**

## II. For Growth Opportunities

- A. In the context of James 1, the exhortation to “count it all joy” is given because of the growth opportunities trials often provide. **James 1:2-3**
- B. Trials, if responded to rightly, help develop endurance, character, and hope. **Romans 5:3-4**
- C. Paul’s thorn in the flesh demonstrates that trials can help us be humble. **2 Corinthians 12:7**

## III. To Suffer for Christ

- A. A specific kind of trial Christians inevitably face at times is suffering for Christ’s sake. When this happens, there is particular cause for rejoicing. **2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14; Acts 5:41**
- B. As Paul’s imprisonments demonstrate, suffering for Christ (and responding to it rightly) can be a strong positive influence on others. **Philippians 1:12-14**

## IV. For God’s Blessings

- A. Those who suffer for Christ’s sake can rest assured that such suffering is known by God, and that heaven will be worth it all. **Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 8:18**
- B. No matter what we face in life, it is a joy to know that Christ came to earth, lived a perfect life, and died for our sins. No temporary sufferings can compare with this. **Romans 5:8-10**
- C. It is likewise a joy to have God’s Word to provide comfort and guidance in good times and bad. **Psalms 119:105**

## V. For God’s Help

- A. God’s Word is a means by which God provides help through trials. By meditating on His Word and the true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, and praiseworthy things His Word promotes, our joy can be strengthened. **Philippians 4:8**
- B. Through His Word, God lets us know He is with His children when we ask for His help. When Christians cast all our “anxiety upon Him,” we can have the peace that surpasses understanding. **Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7**
- C. We can rejoice knowing that with every temptation we face, God guarantees that a way of escape will be there. **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- D. More generally, God’s faithful children can rejoice through trials because of who *He* is: the God of all comfort. **2 Corinthians 1:3**

## VI. By Focusing on God

- A. The heart of finding joy in the midst of trials is looking to the One who is the God of all comfort. It is a joy to remember that God always knows what we face, and that He cares and is faithful to never leave us nor forsake us. **Revelation 2:9; Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:4**

## VII. Conclusion

- A. While there are times of sorrow in the lives of all Christians (cf. **Rom. 12:15**), there is also cause for persistent joy for Christ’s faithful followers. May we lean on God, His Word, and His promises as we face difficulties, and in so doing, find reasons to “count it all joy” even in the midst of trials. **James 1:2**