

"The Ouch! Book"

James 1:1-4

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1. The _____: Vs. 1a

Matthew 13:55: Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers **James** and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

John 7:5: For not even his brothers believed in him.

Vs. 1a: James, a **servant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...

2. The _____: Vs. 1b

Vs. 1b: To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

3. The _____: Vs. 2-4

A. Count it all _____ when you face trials.

Vs. 2: Count it **all joy**, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds...

Hebrews 12:11: For the moment all discipline **seems painful** rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

2 Corinthians 7:4b: "In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy".

B. The testing of your faith produces _____.

Vs. 3: for you know that the testing of your faith produces **steadfastness**.

C. Steadfastness develops spiritual _____.

Vs. 4: And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.

Habakkuk 3:17-19: Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

2 Corinthians 4:17: For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

Matthew 16:27: For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person **according to what he has done**.

Phil. 3:14: I press on toward the goal **for the prize** of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

James 1:12: Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast** under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive **the crown of life**, which God has promised to those who love him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it may have been like growing up as the younger brother of Jesus?
2. How should we "count it all joy" when we face trials? Give examples from your life.
3. According to James, how does God use trials in our lives to help us grow? Have you grown closer to God during trials? How?
4. Imagine going through a Habakkuk-like situation today. What might that look like?
5. When you are going through hardship, do you think about the eternal reward? Why or why not?
6. Do you agree with Jonathan Edwards that there will be different levels of reward in heaven? Consider **Matthew 16:24-27** (CF Rev. 22:12) and **Luke 19:11-19** as you process this idea.