



SCRIPTURE: James 1:1-4

SERIES: James

TITLE: Count It All Joy

CIT: God uses the difficulties of life to grow spiritual maturity in His people as they joyfully submit in service to Him for His glory.

TEXT

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

1. LIFE IS HARD / GOD INTENDS IT FOR JOY.

Application Question: What trials in your life do you need to look at with a different perspective?

- Why does James say “when” and not “if?”
- What is the difference in choosing joy in a situation and trying to pretend it doesn’t hurt?
- Have you ever thought a situation was hopeless and when it was over you realized the Lord was working all along?
- How does a Gospel-Perspective help us go through struggle?
- Which statement is hardest to believe?
 - o God is with me.
 - o God is in control.
 - o God is using this for good.
- Why is trial immediately placed alongside the phrase “testing of faith?”

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. GOD IS MORE CONCERNED WITH OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY THAN OUR COMFORT.

Application Question: What is God teaching you right now with your current struggles?

- Why would the Lord be so interested in our spiritual maturity?
- What are practical ways we pursue spiritual maturity as believers?
- How does difficulty expose the true condition of our faith?
- Which character trait would you want the Lord to strengthen the most in your current season of life?
- What does this text teach us about God’s sovereignty?
- What does this text reveal about the Gospel?