

## “Count It All Joy”

### James 1:2-4

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

#### *The Main Idea*

**At various times as a Christian, God so loves you that he matures you to completion through difficult experiences.** God perfectly plans a way to produce in you the necessary spiritual maturity right up to the very end of your life. Therefore, James tells us that even trials should be an occasion for joy.

#### 1) Trials produce perseverance.

- A. When trials come we have to walk through them.
- B. These trails test our faith.

#### **Psalm 66 [ESV]**

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

Sing the glory of his name;

Give to him glorious praise...

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us...

<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;

You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

<sup>12</sup> You let men ride over our heads;

We went through fire and through water...

- C. Perseverance is walking in the gospel.

**Hebrews 12:1b-3** ... let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

#### 2) Perseverance prepares us for eternity.

- A. Trials remind us that we have not arrived.
- B. Trials will continue until the very end.

*Notes*