

# COUNT IT ALL JOY

## JAMES 1:1-12

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# REALITY OF PAIN AND SUFFERING

- ⦿ One of the basic facts of life we all have to live with and must learn to handle is the reality of pain and suffering.
- ⦿ We all long for a life without trial and pain. This desire is natural.
- ⦿ Suffering is hard to take and even harder to understand.
- ⦿ Scripture gives us a number of reasons for suffering which if understood can help us.

# SUFFERING AND HUMANITY

- ⦿ Suffering is inherent to a fallen and sinful humanity encumbered by demonic powers.
- ⦿ Suffering is necessary because it is a tool that God has chosen to get our attention.
- ⦿ Suffering can be used by God to train us just as a parent will discipline their child.
- ⦿ We need to develop the proper attitude in the face of our suffering and trials.

# ATTITUDES NEEDED IN TRIALS

- ◉ We are to count it all joy. This is a directive and a command.
- ◉ When we encounter trials we must begin to think biblically so that the result is joy.
- ◉ We are to consider and conclude it is all joy. James did not just say joy but count it all joy.
- ◉ That means it has to be pure joy, not mixed with bad attitudes or resentment or doubt.

# ALL JOY IN TRIALS

- ◉ Joy is a good emotion evoked by a state or prospect of well-being, success or blessing.
- ◉ Joy comes from thinking on and trusting in the benefits and blessings of God's love, wisdom, plan and purposes.
- ◉ James is not saying we should have no pain, sorrow, hurt or experience anger.
- ◉ He is saying we must learn to know God's joy.

# THE MIND OF CHRIST

- ◉ In order to have all joy we must live with the mind of Christ.
- ◉ To have the mind of Christ means to have our minds focused on a greater purpose than our own comfort.
- ◉ Believers who know Christ act a certain way when they are faced with trials.
- ◉ Because of the special relationship with Christ believers have the capacity to handle trials.

# THE TIME ASPECT

- ◉ When you encounter refers to the point in time that calls for us to count it all joy.
- ◉ When you find yourself in trial, your immediate need is to count it all joy.
- ◉ To delay puts us on a downward path.
- ◉ When you encounter trials there is a note of certainty regarding trials and irritations.
- ◉ Trials have a way of enlarging themselves.

# CONDITIONS CALLING FOR JOY

- ◉ Trials come from various sources and in all sizes shapes and types.
- ◉ As to the sources they come from self, satan, environment, society, and people.
- ◉ They range from minor irritations to major disasters.
- ◉ It is easy to be joyous and happy when things are going well when we experience pleasure.

# YOU CAN BE JOYOUS

- ◉ Because of what we have in Christ. God's plan for us and potential is that we handle every kind of irritation regardless how small or large
- ◉ This requires God's word and faith in us. We can develop the faith to handle life with its various trials.
- ◉ Phil. 4:11-13. We have to learn how to deal with trials without and trials within.

# TRIALS, TESTING, TEMPTATION

- ⦿ These are all directed towards some objective or goal.
- ⦿ The goal is that one being tested should emerge stronger, purer, and better off because of the testing.
- ⦿ Because of God's sovereign and providential work in all of our lives, our trials are not without purpose.

## RESPONDING IN FAITH WITH JOY

- ◉ Responding in faith with joy means we are part of God's eternal purposes that go far beyond the temporalities of this life.
- ◉ The natural tendency is to place top priority not on becoming Christ like in the midst of problems but on finding happiness comfort and pleasure.
- ◉ We will never be happy if we are concerned primarily with becoming happy.

# FINDING PURE JOY IN TRIALS

- ◉ To accomplish this we must grasp the following:
- ◉ John 14:27
- ◉ John 16:33
- ◉ 1 Peter 4:12
- ◉ A troubled heart, is a heart without peace. It is not a joyful heart.
- ◉ The world has its own ways of finding peace.

# PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY

- ◉ God allows both prosperity and adversity according to His own wise counsel.
- ◉ Eccl. 7:13-14
- ◉ Part of the life of faith is accepting prosperity and adversity from God's hand without being able to explain just how everything will be worked out for the future. Rom. 8:28.
- ◉ Suffering is part of the process we want the product without the process.

