

James: Faith at Work

"A Unique Perspective on Trials" | James 1:2-4 Sunday, May 10th, 2026

~ As Christians, our favorite life experiences are trials & sufferings (notice sarcasm)!?! The Bible lets us know they will happen, and they will serve a purpose. BUT - How on earth can the Bible tell us to count them as "joy?"

~ What James 1:2-4 is NOT = "Don't worry, be happy!" In this life, we need a whole lot more than just "Hey don't sweat it, just be joyful and God will take care of it."

~ We know this world is broken and we are feeling the affects of the curse of sin. Therefore we "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" ... as Paul called the Christians in Rome to do.

~ Four Concepts to Finding True Joy in this Life During Trials ~

_____ (vs. 2)

_____ (vs. 3)

_____ (vs. 4)

_____ (vs. 5)

I. Count - A _____ Attitude (v. 2)

~ The verb tense here is a command - we must count! But this is not teaching us to enjoy our trials, or that trials of any kind are joyous.

~ Let's be real - Trials aren't fun! Hebrews 12:11 - "**For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant...**"

~ Acts 5:42 - Luke reports that some of the apostles were called up to the Sanhedrin to be beaten, and they rejoiced!

* It's not _____ but _____ we go through trials. *

> John 16:33 "**In the world you will have tribulation....**"

> Acts 14:22 "**we must go through many tribulations to enter into the Kingdom of God.**"

II. Know - An _____ Mind (v. 3)

Three truths seen right here in verse 3:

a) Faith is always _____.

b) Testing works for us, not _____ us.

"Suffering is an opportunity to gain the most valuable thing on earth." - Sam Allberry

c) Trials rightly used help us to _____.
"Spiritual toughness is the key to saintliness." - Kent Hughes

~ This is why Paul said to Timothy "**Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**" (2 Tim. 3:12)

III. Permit - Being _____ Even When It Is Hard (vs. 4)

~ Why does God allow the righteous to suffer?

1 Peter 1:6-7 - "**In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**"

Closing Thoughts: 2 verses that confirm what we've seen today...
Romans 12:2 - "**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...**"

Hebrews 12:2 - "**... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ...**"