

# SERMON OUTLINE James 1:1-4

How to Be Glad in Trials

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## **THE COMMAND**

*Count It*

*All Joy*

*My Brothers*

*Whenever You Meet*

*Trials*

*Various Kinds*

## **THE REASONING BEHIND THE COMMAND**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The main point of this text/sermon is that Christians ought to know joy in every trial in the certain hope that God uses every ounce of pain to work a far greater good in us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What do you think of the idea that we are always assigning value to a thing and responding accordingly? Had you ever considered that before? What kinds of things do you assign a high and low value to? How does that change the way you respond to those things? How in line with God's value system is yours?
3. Have you ever thought of counting your trials as all joy? What do you think of that idea? Are there any trials that this seems impossible for?
4. What is the most significant trial you've ever endured or heard of a Christian enduring? Did it seem possible at the time that God was working a greater good through it? Does the crucifixion help you make sense of this?
5. Which greater good promise in the Bible is most appealing to you?
6. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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7. Take a mental inventory of the trials you've endured recently and grade yourself on your obedience to James's command to count them as all joy. Share your results with a friend that he/she might pray for you.
8. Make a list of all the ways God promises to bring about greater good through trials (many of them are listed in Pastor Dave's sermon manuscript). Pick one or two to memorize and cling to the next time a trial comes your way.
9. Commit to praying earnestly through God's greater good promises with someone who is in the midst of a trial.
10. Share with someone how the gospel is good news when life is hard.
11. James commands his readers to "let steadfastness have its full effect." Find a specific way to obey that command.
12. Create some type of artwork celebrating the glory of God as revealed in His use of trials to work greater good.
13. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

## PRAYER POINTS

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14. Adoration. Praise God for the fact that His love, wisdom, power, and grace are able to turn the darkest darkness into light. Praise God for His unwavering ability to perfectly accomplish all of His purposes. Praise God for being the One True God.
15. Confession. Confess the ways you've failed to count your trials as all joy. Confess the ways you've faithlessly grumbled in your trials. Confess the ways you've refused to let steadfastness have its full effect. Confess the ways you've been indifferent to or wrongly counseled someone in their suffering.
16. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing His promises to His people. Thank God for always working good in the trials of Christians. Thank God that someone taught you about God and His will. Thank God for your present trial or peace.
17. Supplication. Ask God to be merciful to anyone you know who is suffering. Ask God to make our church better at faithfully enduring trials together. Ask God to grant us trust in His promises. Ask God give us all joy in every trial.