

Grace and Faith

April 5, 2020

Count it all Joy - Sermon Study

1. What is generally your **response to difficult** times? Read **James 1:2-5**. Who is the **author of chaos** and disorder? What has God given you? Read **1Cor 14:33** and **2Tim 1:7**.
2. When **trouble comes** your way... what should your response be? Read **2Sam 22:4... 2Chron 20... Psa 42:5... Psa 56:4... Psa 74:21... Psa 106:12... Jer 17:14... Psa 8:2/Matt 21:16... Eph 1:6... Col 2:7**.
3. Read **James 1:2-5** again. What happens when your **patience is tested**? What does becoming more **mature, complete, perfect** mean to you? What would it look like in your life?
4. If you serve Jesus... does that mean you'll never have **trouble**? Read **Matt 24:9-14** and **Mark 13:9-13**.
5. Is there a difference between **feeling joy** and **knowing joy**? Read **Jam 1:2-5... 1John 4:16... 1John 5:13**. What's the difference between feeling and knowing? How can you **rule** over trouble? Read **Rom 5:17**.
6. What is **necessary** for winning? Read **Col 1:9-14... Heb 6:9-15... Heb 10:32-39**. How good are you at **patient endurance**? What develops patience. Read **James 1:2-5** again.
7. Read **2Cor 4:7-18... Rom 5:1-5... 1Pet 1:3-9**. What happens when you **count it all joy, rejoice**, and **give thanks** in all kinds of troubles and trials? Are you willing to do it?

Please read entire passages of scripture to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.

Sermon Notes

Count it all Joy - James 1:2-5

I. Introduction

- a. is it possible to be thankful even in dark times...
Jam 1:2-5... “count it all joy when you fall into trials... knowing testing of your faith produces patience... let patience have it’s perfect work... that you may be complete... lacking nothing...”
- b. world is creating sense of urgency and chaos (not from God) ... creating negative emotions and fear...
how can you fight that... pray...
1Cor 14:33... “God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...”
2Tim 1:7... “God has not given fear... but power, love, sound mind...”

**You can’t praise God when your thumb is in the way. Pull it out of your mouth,
grow up and quit letting your feelings dominate you.
Andrew Wommack**

II. Count it all Joy

- a. ever see any church commercials... everyone is happy, everything is perfect, no one has problems... just not like that in this world...
Jam 1:2-5... “when troubles come your way... let it be an opportunity for joy... when faith is tested... patience will grow, so let it grow...”
- b. when trouble comes... many say you need more faith... not really... trouble tests faith... but when its tested, let it be... then patience grows... which leads to you being complete, mature, perfect...

**A Christian without patience is like a soldier without weapons. There are no sins God’s people are more subject to than unbelief and impatience. They are either ready to faint thru unbelief or fret thru impatience.
Thomas Watson**

- c. first response to difficulty is often moaning and complaining... doesn’t change anything... praise and thanks does... no special problems... start speaking life... pain, suffering is real... tests faith to make you strong...
Num 14... “why, cried, protested, complained... I will destroy them...”
2Sam 22... “I praised the Lord... saved from my enemies...”
2Chron 20... “singers ahead of army praising... enemy defeated...”
Psa 42:5... “why discouraged and sad... I will still praise the Lord...”
Psa 56:4... “I praise the God I trust... I will not be afraid...”
Psa 74:21... “let the poor and needy praise your name...”
Matt 21:16 (Psa 8:2)... “praise is strength which silences your enemies...”
Eph 1:6... “praise God for His glorious grace...”
Col 2:7... “faith overflows in thanksgiving...”
- d. remember, faith is a fight... not easy... many things you face will hurt and hurt bad... sickness, poverty, relationships, persecution...
Matt 24:9-14... “kill you... hated by nations... take offense... betray...”
Mark 13:9-13... “handed over... flogged... arrested... hated by all...”
John 5, 8... “approval, disapproval means nothing... my Father says...”

- e. people read James 1 and say... *need to feel joy* when problems come... sickness, disease, death, hurt, pain... just *feel joy*... not what it says...
Jam 1:2-5... “**consider it all joy... when troubles come your way...**”
hegeomai... *rule, command, have authority over, influence, lead...*
- f. reason you can count it all joy... not just feel joy... is because you can take command and have authority over troubles when they come...
Rom 5:17... “**receive overflow of grace, gift of righteousness... reign...**”
basileuo... *exercise kingly power over; influence, control...*
- g. not just *feeling* joy when faith is tested... but **knowing** it...
Jam 1... “**knowing testing of your faith produce patience...**”
1John 4... “**have come to know and believe the love God has for us...**”
1John 5... “**written this... so you may know you have eternal life...**”
know... *understand as true beyond doubt; grasp with certainty; fixed in mind...*
- h. count it all joy because you know outcome... you win... just a test...
Rom 8:32-39... “**in all these things... we are more than victorious...**”
1John 4:4... “**have already won your fight... HS in you is greater...**”
- i. but it requires patience... **faith works thru patience**... patience is waiting for God to solve problems when we cannot... eyes on Jesus...
Col 1... “**strengthened with power, patience... to share inheritance...**”
Heb 6... “**confident of better things... keep on loving others... imitate those who inherit the promises thru faith and patience...**”
Heb 10... “**don’t throw away confidence... receive all the promises...**”
- j. God is not throwing problems at you (**devil destroys, God gives life**) ... stuff will happen... results depend on who you are going to believe...
2Cor 4... “**pressed on every side by troubles, perplexed, hunted and knocked down, in constant danger... but continue to preach with faith... I believe in God, so I spoke... all this is for your benefit... as grace reaches more people... will be great thanksgiving... God gets glory...**”
- k. devil attacks soul (**mwe**)... tests faith... wants to know who you’re going to believe... trust God, don’t give up, rejoice... rhythm of grace... **pray**...
Rom 5... “**righteous by faith... have peace with God... rejoice in hope... rejoice in problems and trials... knowing they produce patience... which produces character... which produces hope... hope doesn’t disappoint... because God’s love is poured out in our hearts thru HS...**”
1Pet 1:3-9... “**distressed by various trials... believe and rejoice with glorious joy... receiving goal of faith... salvation of your souls...**”

Contentment

Phil 4:11... *I have learned... in whatever state... to be content...*

These words show us that contentment is not a natural propensity of man. *All weeds grow apace*. Covetousness, discontent, and murmuring are as natural to man as thorns are to the soil. We need not sow thistles and brambles; they come to us naturally enough, because they are indigenous to earth... and so, we need not teach men to complain; they complain fast enough without any education.

But the **precious things** of earth **must be cultivated**. If we would have wheat, we **must plough and sow**... if we want flowers, there must be the garden, and all the gardener's care.

Now, **contentment** is one of the flowers of heaven, and if we would have it, it **must be cultivated**. It will not grow in us by nature. It is the new nature alone that can produce it, and even then we must be specially careful and watchful that we maintain and **cultivate the grace which God has sown** in us.

Paul says, *I have learned to be content*. As much as to say, he did not know how at one time. It cost him some pains to attain to the mystery of that great truth. No doubt he sometimes thought he had learned, and then broke down.

And when at last he had attained unto it, and could say, *I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*. He was an old, grey-headed man, upon the borders of the grave. A poor prisoner shut up in Nero's dungeon at Rome. We might be willing to endure Paul's infirmities, and share the cold dungeon with him, if we too might by any means attain unto his good degree.

Do not indulge the notion that you can be contented without learning, or learn without discipline. It is not a power that may be exercised naturally, but a science to be acquired gradually. We know this from experience. Hush that murmur, natural though it be, and continue a diligent pupil in the College of Content.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – February 16th

Encouragement

Deut 1:38... *encourage him, for he will enable Israel to inherit it...*

God employs His people to encourage one another. He did not say to an angel, *Gabriel, my servant Joshua is about to lead my people into Canaan, go encourage him.* God never works needless miracles. If His purposes can be accomplished by ordinary means, He will not use miraculous agency. Gabriel would not have been half so well fitted for the work as Moses.

A brother's sympathy is more precious than an angel's embassy. The angel, swift of wing, had better known the Master's bidding than the people's temper. An angel had never experienced the hardness of the road, nor seen the fiery serpents, nor had he led the stiff-necked multitude in the wilderness as Moses had done.

We should be glad that **God usually works for man by man.** It forms a bond of brotherhood, and being **mutually dependent** on one another, we are **fused more completely into one family.**

Brethren, take the text as God's message to you. Labour to **help others**, and especially **strive to encourage them.** Talk cheerily to the young and anxious enquirer, lovingly try to remove stumbling blocks out of his way. **When you find a spark of grace** in the heart, kneel down and **blow it into a flame.**

Leave the young believer to discover the roughness of the road by degrees, but **tell him of the strength which dwells in God**, of the **sureness of the promise**, and of the charms of communion with Christ. Aim to **comfort the sorrowful**, and to animate the desponding. Speak a word in season to him that is weary, and **encourage those who are fearful** to go on their way with joy.

God encourages you by His promises. **Christ encourages** you as He points to the heaven He has won for you. The **Spirit encourages** you as He works in you to do of His own will and pleasure. Imitate divine wisdom, and **encourage others**, according to the word of this evening.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – Sept 17th