



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

[CALL TO HEAR]

James 1:2-4 ESV

Testing of Your Faith

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

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People – "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Introduction

One of the greatest things a Christian can ever do for another Christian, when they are going through hard times, is to remind them that it is not all for naught. Although I think for many it is a very hard thing to learn how to give encouragement in times of crisis. I would say to you that perhaps it is not the best idea that when a person loses a loved one you come at them with James 1:2 "*Count it all joy my brothers when you meet various trials*". You might have meant well but you probably made someone very distraught. You know our friend Job had this very same experience do you remember this from our readings this past week? [Job 16:1-5](#)

Ok so there is a time for [mourning and grieving](#) right? But there is also a time for the Christian to stop looking at hard times not just as pain/nuisance but to start lifting our eyes to the hills from where our help comes from, who is the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. ([Psalm 121:1-2](#)). There is a time for the saint to remember **trials**, and the fear of them, are **not to have paralyzing effects** in life, they are made to go through and get to the other side (there is a time to get across that stream). There is also a time for Christians to take other family by the hands, sometimes when people become stuck in pain, and



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

remind them it is not the end, and these earthly things can and will lead to a glorified tomorrow. That is why the lessons we will get from James are so important, especially this first one, because this is truth that can make or break us, if we are not ready for trials in your life.

MP

God uses trials to produce steadfastness and maturity in His people.

We are going to go through this very important message from James today hitting 4 different points. **Frist, the reality of various trials**, and the fact they will come whether you like it or not. **Secondly, the command to count it all Joy**, so we must discover why in the world would we want to do that. **Thirdly, the testing of faith**, the fact that God uses them to strengthen our belief in Him. **Then fourthly, the goal: maturity and completeness**, God uses trials to make us complete in Him, not lacking a thing.

1. The Reality of Various Trials

2a Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

It is not an "If" you meet trials it is a "When" you do. And it is not just you will go through them, but they will come at you from all directions. The word there for various means of many different kinds. Trials will come and they will come at you from all different angles, and they will all look different. It reminds me of one of some of the most comedic scenes in all of movies. When I was a kid my mom made me watch with her the *Pink Panther* movies, I was a James Bond fan not an Inspector Clouseau groupie. Anyway, the inspector though always had a couple of scenes in his movies I would die laughing at, he had a Butler named Kato, and he had instructed Kato to attack him in his apartment at any time of the day or night using whatever means necessary to keep his bad guy radar attuned. All that was to sharpen his fighting skills.

You see Christian life is not about going through a trial and then taking a break. It is simply moving from one trial to the next. They will always keep coming and they will all look different. Some trials will come from purely evil sources, and some will come from our work to better ourselves and our family. You see trials



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

doesn't mean just bad it just means testing, and that will happen in every circumstance in your life. They will come at you, just like Kato, and it happens as soon as you take a breath and lay down for the evening, are you ready family?

So why does it work like that, should we not receive peace if we belong to God? The Nature of Sin and the Fall.

Genesis 13:17-18

^{17b} cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

The Fall, the curse of sin, is what makes trials an absolute. Nothing works right because all the world is broken. Broken not by God's shortcomings, but by our first father Adam, a perfect father who still fell. **Romans 5:12** says, "*Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man**, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*" All trials come from a creation that has been subjugated to the wrath of God according to the rebellion of our first parents, as a result of justice for our sin. **Trials are a result of a fallen world.**

3 Ways in which this world becomes the Trial maker.

Trials come from fallen nature 1st. [Romans 8:20–22](#) tells us that creation, the physical world we see, waits for **with groaning** for a future consummation when all of God's children are brought in again, a **future glorification**, which happens at our Lord's second coming. Nature as beautiful as it is, as wholesome as it can be, is not good right now in its current state. Two weeks ago, we saw that as glacier flood waters killed hundreds of people in [Nepal](#), who lived peaceably with the natural order. Trials are released by a physical world on people not as an act of revenge by mother nature; the world does not have a spirit or personality as popular Anime, or indigenous people of the world would tell you. No, the world is simply dangerous because it is fallen and therefore it produces trials.



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

2nd Trials come from fallen people. The earth is inhabited by a majority of people who are not Christian. According to [PEW research](#), at least 70% of the earth's inhabitants do not hold to a Christian/Evangelical worldview. I think that is a very complimentary number, they mean people who subscribe to a religious worldview based around Christ ([universal/visible church](#)). As far as the number of the "[invisible church](#)" goes, those that have encountered second birth/conversion, I think that number is a lot lower.

Isaiah 24:5-6 ESV

- ⁵ The earth lies defiled
under its **inhabitants**;
for they have transgressed the laws,
violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant.
- ⁶ Therefore a **curse** devours the earth,
and its **inhabitants** suffer for their **guilt**;
therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched,
and few men are left.

So, we are under those that have transgressed God's laws (the majority), those that don't care about His ways, therefore they are bound under the curse of the fall and **suffer for their guilt**. What we end up having is the majority of the world suffering through shame/guilt always looking for a way to ignore or make it better, trying to figure out a way contrary to following God. If you watch the national news for any amount of time you can capture a 30,000-foot view of nations and their popular religious perspectives play out in the world scene and then fail as they subjugate their citizens to their failed belief/political workings. That will always lead to trials for God's people as we must endure with fallen people.

We watch that played out at the national level where a state like Florida can outlaw Sharia law where a state like Michigan embraces it. We watch a state like Massachusetts applaud murder of the unborn up to delivery while a state like Oklahoma can ban it except for preserving the life of the mother. Or how a man named [Timothy Ray Jones](#) got the death penalty for murdering his 5 children when suffering from a proven diagnosis Schizophrenia while we are



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

worried that [Lindsay Clancy](#) will get off for strangling her 3 children. People are broken, and they will do what seems right to them according to their hearts not God's law, *"the earth lies defiled and therefore a curse devours the earth"* so says Isaiah, and we will have to endure it.

Then lastly, trials come from Demonic Forces.

1 John 5:19

¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Revelation 16:14 ESV

¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

The world is under the influence of those fallen angels that seek to usurp worship from God and take it for themselves. They influence all the influencers like media, entertainment, and popular social elites. They set the trends, and they stir up discord among tribal lines. Their goal isn't even to get the majority of the planet to go along with one evil plan, they prefer war and disunity always preferring chaos. Their end goal is destruction of sanity where all men do what is right according to their own eyes so that there is never a uniting vision.

So, what makes trials such a reality is because we live in a Fallen world, a condition that won't be settled and corrected until the return of our Lord. **But thanks be to God** who is not powerless among the evil found in the world, who through the Lord Jesus' victory broke the stranglehold of the Devil on this earth. He who used faulty earthly rulers to secure His sacrifice and set up the conditions to ensure His victory over death. The same God that orchestrates the plan of Salvation is the same God that now uses the Fall and its' consequences to bring forth a people for Himself, a people that will look like His Son. **A fallen world can come at us at any time and in any way yes, but all the ways in which it can come will always be subject to God's sovereign hand!**



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

Now, James knows something about that and therefor gives us the first command of many in the book of James.

2. The Command to Count It Joy

^{2b} Count it all **joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

Command to obey – Count it all joy!

First thing I want to do have us all look at that first word, "[Count](#)" ἡγέομαι (*hēgeomai*) it means to give a good amount of regard to. James is saying activate the mind, that part of you that doesn't come from your heart, (*pathos*). **This is not about how you feel but about how you think.** The first thing we do, "*when*" not "*if*," we encounter trials of various kinds is to not roll with the emoting of the moment but put it through the decipher of what scripture says; or in the words of Paul.

Romans 12:2 ESV

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

You don't get to what is good and acceptable by allowing your gut to lead the way, or go as your heart leads you, or listening to your instincts, or in the words of Obi-wan *trust your feelings*. The world doesn't like you to think, it wants you to react, be overcome, get worried, get angry, get freaked out, but God says, slow the role and be **transformed/changed in how you respond**, by the renewing of the mind in how you process that event/trial. **It is the first command folks; James wants us to be people that think not react when trials come a calling.** There is a time for emotion yes, it's just not all the time and it is not our first choice.

You know what reacting in emotion gets you, more stress. People spend a large amount of time and worry about trying to control outcomes only to discover you can't control anything.



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

Secondly, as James says here to **Count**/Think/Ponder it all (encountering various trials) [χαρά \(chara\). n. JOY](#). *The experience of gladness.* At this point everyone in here was ok with tracking with James. Yes, it was hard to consider that Christians are not exempted by trials, yes, they are a result of a fallen world, and ok PJ we can even admit our emotions take control when we think about them, but now James wants us to engage the emotions and actually consider trials as joy? Yep, there is a lot to be said how Christians CAN activate their faith to believe that something bad/stressful/tempting/hard will produce JOY. **Sounds a lot like repentance doesn't it**, to go from believing one thing to actually believing what God's Word tells us.

Romans 8:28 ESV

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Worry/Anxiety is about us trying to manage outcomes of a stressor in our lives, while Faith is believing God manages the outcomes and the end will be for the good of His people.

The word Joy most of the time is used in the NT, especially in Jesus' teachings which James refers to continually, as something that is set before us, at the finish line, it is still an outcome to be achieved.

Matthew 13:44 ESV

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 25:21 ESV

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

Joy, as taught by Jesus, is something you strive towards and are experiencing some now even though trials are presently happening.



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

John 16:20-22 ESV

²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into **joy**. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for **joy** that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your **joy** from you.

You start to experience a little **joy** now by thinking of the fullness that is coming. For example, you don't just experience the joy of Christmas on the day of, it starts at the beginning of Advent season, and it builds until you receive Him. Eschatological Joy is realizing that a trial, experiencing it as a believer, is the beginning of something that will result in a full sense, a perfected Joy, that can never be lost. James' teaching gets us to consider that our trials are the things that are going to deliver us out of this fallen world into a perfect future where nothing can steal our Joy for the target of our existence is with us eternally. In other words, trials are like the pains of childbirth, they are long while you're going through it but seem short on the other side and worth it to receive the prize, an eternity in the presence of our Lord who now we will never lose.

HCC consider this morning that all your trials are the pains that will bring you a true and eternal Joy. Now let's move on so we learn how it achieves that.

3. The Testing of Faith

³ for you know that the **testing** of your faith produces **steadfastness**.

James is talking to Christians as if they should already **know** this truth. Christians at this point in time have already gone through some hardships. As we said, after Stephen's martyrdom, they have already been dispersed across Palestine. Many of the Jewish Christians because of their choice to follow Christ have lost much of their way of life. They lost family, the lost inheritances, treated as outcasts they lost the ability to do business with other Jews. It has not been easy to follow the Lord, they have already learned



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

that the testing through trials has brought them a [steadfastness](#) or a Godly patience. James is like that lesson you have already learned, was not a one and done thing, it is for the rest of your life that this will happen to you. Trials will come so keep in mind this is the way your faith is [tested](#)/proved; shown for really what it is.

Joy comes in understanding that trials have a purpose, they are to **make your Faith the real thing**. You ask any professional athlete, entertainer, or performer and they will all tell you the same thing, that which makes them better is **practice/testing** of what you do and what you know. So, trials are for the **Refinement of Faith**.

The Refining of Faith.

This has been a long-standing practice for those that have put their faith in God. The use of trials in one way weeds out those who are false followers and, in another way, increases the faith of those who are true believers. God often times in the scripture uses the imagery of putting someone through a fire to burn away impurities in rare metals to refine them, to test their faith.

Zecahriah 13:9 ESV

⁹And I will put this third into the fire,
and **refine** them as one **refines** silver,
and **test** them as gold is tested.
They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, 'They are my people';
and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Refining Faith means God is producing in us a heart that worships Him, calls for him, relies on Him not self where they cry, "*the LORD is my God!*" **Pain and suffering are produced by the fall, but the worship of God comes from the refinement through suffering**. It is a true joy to discover at the end of a trial God was with you, it was under His control, the world did not conquer you, and God be praised for it!

Malachi 3:3 ESV



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

³ He will sit as a **refiner** and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and **refine** them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

Refining us means the burning away of our impurities so that what we offer to God as way of our talents, times, and treasure come from hearts that love purely or a heart that seeks not its' own good or first comforts. It shapes our hearts into those that resemble Christ, so that all we produce is to bring God glory, it refines us into a worthy instrument! (Remember we are servants, aren't we?). We like Christ, after our testing, will be able to bring righteous offerings now to the Lord, worthy of Him.

Job 23:10-12 ESV

- ¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.
¹¹ My foot has held fast to his steps;
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.
¹² I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

From our good friend Job, he still wants answers from God at this point but what he does realize is that trials are for refinement of the individual and it is a way to show yourself, others, and God that your faith in Him is true. Family in the end let me tell you something, that is really what you want. **You and I want to be able to enter eternity knowing that the world could not deter us from worshipping and loving our God, for it was our faith in Him that got us through.** That is a wonderful testimony that all should desire. Is that most important to you today, to finish and have said of you, *well done my good and faithful servant?*

So, all this testing does bring a refinement, an inner strength for longer days ahead, and so for what purpose what is the goal of this refined faith?

4. The Goal: Maturity and Completeness



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Command to Submit to Sanctification – Let maturing be perfected in you!

Don't stop the process James is saying. Let this time of testing have a full effect, let it work all the way through you, don't run from it, go through the trial, don't abandon ship, hold your ground SO THAT – you may be [perfect](#); to be full developed. That command is important because it was given once before.

Matthew 5:48 ESV

⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Our Lord commands us to be complete, let these things have its full effect so that we may become what God has intended for us to become.

What does this maturity bring to us?

Romans 5:3-5 ESV

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

When we have gone through trials a sign of moving towards that perfectness or fullness, is that our maturity is established through a **hope** Paul says will **not fail you**. This type of Hope is a hope that has been poured into our hearts by the HS. Hope that is divinely given cannot be taken away. **This maturing of the Christian brings a full serving of Hope**, and that hope will not fail you when you need it.

1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

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.

A tested faith, a perfected faith does for the believer what every believer wants, **it brings glory to Jesus Christ**. You and I want to be able to tell people that it was an honor to endure what we did because Christ is worth it. There is nothing more satisfying than that. **This maturity gives one the ability that in all things Jesus is glorified.**

Matthew 5:11-12 ESV

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Blessed/fortunate/glad are we when we are reviled and persecuted when we are put to the test. Why, because Jesus says great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets before you. And who is the greatest of all prophets but our Lord Himself full of Grace and Truth. **Maturity brings for the believer rewards** that would not be yours unless you go through the testing. What is the best example we have of this?

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking 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.

We go through trials because the world is fallen, we count it as joy knowing it produces steadfastness in us, so that our testimony will not lack anything therefore it is perfected, and we are able to shine like Jesus who for joy endured the cross for God and us. He has been rewarded in full through His maturing process and so shall we, if we remember this main point this morning.

MP



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

God uses trials to produce steadfastness and maturity in His people.

How do we practice enduring, not running away from, and not wasting the sanctification that God brings us through?

[CALL TO OBEY]

1. Exercise Deliberate Household Leadership Through Prayer

When adversity strikes, do not mirror the anxiety of the world. Instead, gather your family for intentional, rhythmic home worship. Use the time to 'count it all joy' by teaching your children and spouse how to interpret the hardship through the lens of Scripture rather than the lens of circumstance. Lead them in prayer to acknowledge God's sovereignty in the trial, train them to view every hardship as a divine instrument for their refinement.

2. Practice Active Endurance by Resisting Cultural Conformity

Steadfastness is not a passive waiting for the storm to pass; it is a militant refusal to bow to the idols of our age. When the world offers you easy, sinful, or cowardly exits from difficulty, choose the harder, righteous path. Whether it involves standing firm in your convictions regarding the sanctity of life, political leanings, or refusing to adopt the perverse standards of the secular state, our endurance is the evidence of a faith that is being refined by fire. Do not look for an escape from the battle; look for the opportunity to demonstrate to your family that your hope is anchored in the glory of Christ, not in the comfort of this fallen earth.

3. Cultivate an Eternal Perspective and Leave a Legacy

In our daily lives, prioritize the building of a legacy that honors the Creator. This means investing your time, treasure, and talents into things that endure: the catechizing of your children, the building of strong, biblically ordered family ties, honoring of God's people and ordered worship, and the stewardship of your resources. When you treat your trials as the sharpening of your spiritual sword, you ensure that your house will not lack when the final test comes. Prepare your home for the trials that will come tomorrow by



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

obeying God's word today. Your maturity in these moments serves as a living testimony to your children, teaching them that their identity is defined by their relationship to the King, not by the shifting sands of the world.

Prayer

[COMMUNION]

Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

When we partake of the bread today remember the life of Jesus lived perfect for us. The Lord ran with endurance the race that was set before Him, while we avoided the trials that confronted us. He endured His time of testing for the joy set before Him, while we instead took light and momentary comforts. He despised the shame, earning a place next to the Father so that we too through His work might come home to Him. Praise be to our Lord Jesus who knew how to handle trials for the Glory of God.

When we partake of the juice, we remember the blood of Jesus that was poured out for our sins. That instead of refusing the cup of wrath endured His earthly trial. When He could have called for His legions of angels, instead chose the loneliness of His sufferings to produce a sacrifice worthy of God, erasing our guilt, and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. By the blood from His trial, we have been made clean. All praise to our Savior who has made a way for us through His steadfast love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand and recites:



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

Heidelberg Catechism (1563) Question #1:

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—² to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵

He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20; ² Rom. 14:7-9; ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; ⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; ⁸ Rom. 8:28; ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who uses a fallen world to produce through various trials when they come, the glorified image of His Son in us.

Go in the name of the Son, who for our sake endured the greatest of all trials the cross, so that we learn how to be steadfast, and receive too our reward from Him one day.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that perfects in us our faith, helping us to preserve all the way to the end, now go and glorify your Lord through your testimony to a world that desperately needs Him.



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

1. **The Nature of Response:** James commands us to 'count' it all joy, which involves an active use of the mind rather than an emotional reaction. In the last month, what trial have you encountered where your initial emotional response was fear or frustration, and how can you go back and 're-calculate' that event through the lens of God's sovereignty?
2. **The Source of Conflict:** We discussed that trials arise from a fallen world, fallen people, and demonic influence. How does identifying the source of your current trials change the way you fight them? Does it move you toward prayer and home-centered worship, or does it lead to bitterness toward specific people?
3. **Refining the Household:** If God uses trials to 'burn away impurities' like a refiner of silver, what 'impurities' (such as pride, self-reliance, or desire for worldly comfort) do you currently see surfacing in your own life or within your family life during this season?
4. **The Goal of Maturity:** James links steadfastness to being 'perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.' How does your current commitment to your family's daily worship and catechism help you remain steadfast, and where do you need to exercise more discipline to ensure you are not 'abandoning ship' when things get difficult?
5. **Hope and Endurance:** Jesus endured the cross for the 'joy that was set before him.' As you look at the challenges your family currently faces, what specific 'eternal joys' should you be keeping before your eyes to ensure you do not grow weary and lose heart?



James / Faith that Works - Wk. 2
"Count It All Joy"
By Pastor Jody May 09/06/2026

[BIBLIOGRAPHY]

1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith in Modern English.

<https://founders.org/library-book/1689-confession/> . Web May 25, 2025.

Adamson, James. [*The Epistle of James*](#). The New International Commentary on the New Testament. (Grand Rapids, MI: William E. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979).

Blomberg, Craig L. & Kamell, Mariam J. [*James / Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2008).

Doriani, Daniel M. [*James / Reformed Expository Commentary*](#). (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2007).

Green, Jay P. Sr. [*The Interlinear Bible*](#) / Hebrew-Greek-English: With Strong's Concordance Numbers Above Each Word. (Peabody, MI: Hendrickson Publishers, 1986).

McCartney, Dan G. [*James: A Paragraph-by-Paragraph Exegetical Evangelical Bible Commentary*](#). Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2009).

Moo, Douglas J. [*The Letter of James / Second Edition*](#). A Pillar New Testament Commentary. (Grand Rapids, MI: William E. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2021).

Platt, David. [*Exulting Jesus in James*](#) / Christ-Centered Exposition. (Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing, 2014).

Stott, John R. [*The Message of James: Revised Edition*](#). The Bible Speaks Today Commentary. (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1985).

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016).