



- Facing Trials with Joy
- Acts 11:27 - 12:25

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

**(James 1:2-4 ESV)**

- James 1:2-4: Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds

**Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.**

**(James 1:2-4 ESV)**

- James 1:2-4: 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

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

**(James 1:2-4 ESV)**

- James 1:2-4: And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## HOW???

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

(James 1:2-4 ESV)

- How can we count it joy?
- Scriptures have been given to us for learning (Romans 15:4)
- Acts 11:27 - 12:25

## **Trials Faced**

**— Famine**

**— Persecution**

- Trials Faced
  - famine
  - persecution

# Famine

- Famine (11:27-30)
  - A. 27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
    - 1. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine **over all the world** (this took place in the days of Claudius).
    - 2. 29 So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to **send relief to the brothers living in Judea**.
    - a. 30 And they did so, **sending it to the elders** by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Famine**

**Love**

- Love
  - 1 John 3:17-18: But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth
- Not rivalry



**Famine**

**Love**

**Aid**

- Aid

- 2 Corinthians 8:2: for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.
- 2 Corinthians 8:3: For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

**Famine**

**Love**

**Aid**

- Aid
  - 2 Corinthians 8:4: begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

**Famine**

**Love**

**Aid**

- Bountiful
  - 2 Corinthians 9:6: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
  - Often used for our general contributions... context is focused on helping brethren in a famine!

**Famine**

**Love**

**Aid**

**Action**

- Urgent Action

- Providing for the needs of brothers
- send relief
- who didn't even ask for help
- Go the distance

- vs. 25: And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

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# Famine

Count it Joy

**Help  
Brethren**

**Love**

**Aid**

**Action**

- Count it Joy: by helping your brothers
  - Trials are an opportunity to help those in need
- Look beyond my own suffering
- Interest in others
- Serve!

# Persecution

- Persecution 12:1-5
  - 1) violent hands on some who belonged to church
  - 2) killed James with sword
  - 3) arrested Peter

**Persecution**

**Pray**

- Prayer
  - 5) So Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest prayer** for him was made **to God** by the church.
- Not go to government
- Not protests
- Not riots

**Persecution**

**Pray**  
**Trust**

- Trust in God to answer!
- Prayer answered!
  - 6-12: Trust in God's deliverance
    - vs 9: even Peter had a hard time understanding.
    - vs. 11: finally got it



**Persecution**

**Pray**  
**Trust**

- Trust in God to answer!
  - Vengeance:
    - vs. 23: Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
- Wait for God to do His Will!

# **Persecution**

**Pray**

**Trust**

**Seek Brethren**

- Seeking Brethren
  - vs. 12: When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.
- Share in suffering: share in comforting
  - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

# Persecution

**Pray**

**Trust**

**Seek Brethren**

**Pray More**

- Pray More
  - vs. 12: where many were gathered together and were praying.
  - Cope with answered prayer
    - vs. 16 But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were **amazed**.
    - Peter's release was unexpected even though they were praying for Peter.

# Persecution

Count it Joy

**Draw closer  
to God &  
brethren**

**Pray**

**Trust**

**Seek Brethren**

**Pray More**

- Count it Joy
  - Earnest Prayer and Pray among Brethren (at homes, too)
  - Share in suffering
  - Share in comfort
  - Trust in God to deal with trials and deliver us

# **Facing Trials with Joy**

**Help Brethren**

**Draw closer to God & brethren**

- Facing Trials with Joy
  - Help brethren
  - draw closer to God and brethren

# **Facing Trials with Joy**

**Help Brethren**

**Draw closer to God & brethren**

- We will face trials
  - being a Christian doesn't mean we will not face struggles

## **Facing Trials with Joy**

**Help Brethren**

**Draw closer to God & brethren**

- 1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

# **Facing Trials with Joy**

**Help Brethren**

**Draw closer to God & brethren**

- James 1:2-4: 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



## **Facing Trials with Joy**

**Help Brethren**

**Draw closer to God & brethren**

- Two tools for counting it joy today.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



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Miscellaneous

#05

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## Facing Trials with Joy

Acts 11:27 - 12:25

Synopsis: We often focus on the early church's successes and neglect some of the trials they faced. In this lesson we'll learn that trials can be faced with joy when we use them as an opportunity to help each other and to draw closer to God and our brothers.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**