

Count It All Joy

James

The book of James -- where do we start? There are so many good topics and ideas found in James. Here are just a few:

1. We glory in tribulation
2. But be ye doers of the Word and not just hearers
3. Faith without works is dead
4. Who can tame the tongue
5. Fervent prayer of a righteous man...
6. Do not boast about tomorrow...

There are so many good topics that are always relevant to us as believers.

First though, who is James? Early church tradition has it that he is Jesus' half brother.

[Matthew 13:55] So what do we know? He was the church leader in Jerusalem.

[Acts 12:17] **[Galatians 1:19]** He is believed to have been married. **[1 Cor. 9:15]** Peter reported to him when released from prison. **[Acts 12:17]** Paul took his advice. **[Acts 21:18-26]** And, he also wrote the letter to the gentiles after the Jerusalem decree. **[Acts 15:13-29]** He was a very busy man, well respected and unusually upright even for a Christian. His nickname was "*James the Just*" and it is said he spent so much time on his knees, they had calluses!

Lastly, it is believed he was martyred in 62 AD. He was taken by the Council and was ordered to say "*Jesus is not the Messiah*" from the gallery. Instead, he cried out "*He is*" and so he was thrown down from the gallery and stoned, then finally hit with a club to his head. He is said to have been on his knees praying, "Father forgive them, for they....." Amazingly, it is known that none of his siblings believed at first.

Okay, good thing we are doing several studies on James.

So where do we start? How about chapter 1.

James 1

1. What stands out to you in this chapter?

Herein lies the concept of having "Joy in Tribulation." I don't really know anyone who finds joy in trials...

James 1:2-8

2. Somehow James links trials with the testing of our faith, which is then linked to lack of wisdom. Why?

If God allows us to fall into temptation, it seems that God is tempting us. When, in fact, it is our flesh. Amen?

James 1:12-15 --- Mental attitude

Romans 5:1-11

3. What is the connection and what is the difference with Jesus as opposed to us?

Jesus was desiring / tempted to not fulfill God's plan and will for Jesus. Jesus, however, found joy in his greatest trial by fulfilling God's will.

4. What trials do you have now and how do you find joy in them?

In fact, it is considered a part of our Christian service!

Romans 12:9-21

Certainly, we can find misery, sadness, depression, feelings of defeat. It is all *mental attitude*. If all you have to hope for is this world, your trials are much harder.

James 4:1-10

5. Why is humbleness rewarded?

James 5:7-12

6. Should we pray for patience?

Instead, let's pray a prayer of gratitude and acceptance.

Next week --- *The Tongue*. Two weeks from now --- *Works and Faith*.