

Count It All Joy!

Night of Prayer!

I. The Power of Perspective

An old story:

Three men were working on a construction site. Each one had a shovel with which he was digging in the ground.

The first seemed listless and tired. Someone asked him: "What are you doing?" He replied, "I'm digging a hole."

The second seemed happier. Someone asked him, as well, "What are you doing?" He answered: "We are laying the foundation for a big wall!"

The third was also digging away. He worked tirelessly and, defying exhaustion, was full of joy and strength of mind. Again, the question: "What are you doing?" He answered: "We are building a cathedral!"

A. Meeting Trouble with Joy

[James 1:1](#) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: **Greetings**.

2 Count it **all joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,. **[slide 1]**

How we think leads to what we say and do – *lead, guide, rule,*

[Luke 22:26 NIV](#) But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest ... like the youngest, and **the one who rules** like the one who serves. " **NKJ** **he who governs**

[Matt. 2:6](#) "... Bethlehem, ... for from you shall come a **ruler** who will shepherd my people Israel." House of Bread

Count it **ALL** Joy!

Not just **act** joyful, but to be **genuinely joyful**. It is a matter of will, not of feelings, a conscious, determined commitment of every faithful believer.

God commands it, within our **grace given** ability!

Not liabilities but privileges, ultimately beneficial ... no matter how destructive and painful the immediate experience ... might appear. ...

Increases our HUNGER AND THIRST, our SEEKING the Lord—the Source of all joy—by becoming more sensitive to His **presence**, His **goodness**, His **love**, and His **grace**. Our **prayer** life increases, as does our interest in and study of the Word, and in each of those ways our joy increases all the more.

B. In Difficulties... Grace is working *for Your Transformation*.

Jas 1:3 for you **know** that the **testing** of your **faith** produces steadfastness. [slide 1 again]

Perspective affects Outcome

Ginōskō (**know**) carries the idea of full understanding of something that is beyond the merely factual and that often comes from personal experience.

Paul and Peter concur!

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained **access** by faith **into this grace** in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God**.

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.

1 Pet. 2:19-21 ... when you do good and suffer for it you endure,,

C. Don't Drop Out of the Process.

Jas 1:4 And let steadfastness have its **full effect**, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.** [slide 2]

That you may be fully mature, perfectly developed and complete with no LACK.

abundance. Rooted and Grounded in Love

D. The HOPE Mature Image

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who **love** God all things work together **for good**, for those who are **called** according to his **purpose.** 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image** of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

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The ROOTS that drink in the LOVE of God!

Rom. 15:13 NIV May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

II. The OVERFLOW of Communication

B. The Word of God is Eternal and Creative

Psa. 33:6 **By the word** of the LORD **the heavens were made**, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

9 For he **spoke**, and it came to be; he **commanded**, and it stood firm.

- 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
- 11 **The counsel of the Lord stands forever,**
the **plans of his heart** to all generations.
- 12 **Blessed** is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The Word of God in your mouth

Rom. 10:8 But what does it say? **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);** 9 because, if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will **be saved**.

III. The HOPE of Blessing

OVERFLOWING WITH HOPE Human to Human.

This is the intentional act of speaking God’s favor and power into someone’s life.

Lk 6:27 “But I say to you who hear, **Love** your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, 28 **bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who abuse you.

1 Cor 4:12 NIV ...When we are cursed, **we bless**; when we are persecuted, **we endure it**;

Aaronic Blessing.

A parent’s simple blessing:

May the Lord bless you with grace and peace,
Power and protection,
Health and healing,
Holiness and godliness,
Abundance and prosperity,
And all the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit,
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OVER HOMES

MY HOME IS A HOME: OF PEACE

Isa 32:18 NIV My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. (NIV)

OF LIGHT

Ex 10:23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

OF HEALTH

Ps 91:10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

OF SALVATION

Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

OF BLESSING

Prov 3:33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

THAT IS OFF LIMITS TO VANDALISM

Prov. 24:15 NLT Don't wait in ambush at the home of the godly, and don't raid the house where the godly live.

16 The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.
But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

THAT IS COVERED WITH GLORY

Isa 4:5 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and

the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy.

THAT IS A HAPPY HOME

Ps 128:1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

THAT IS A LIGHTHOUSE

Is. 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.