



## COUNT IT ALL JOY

### James 1:2-4

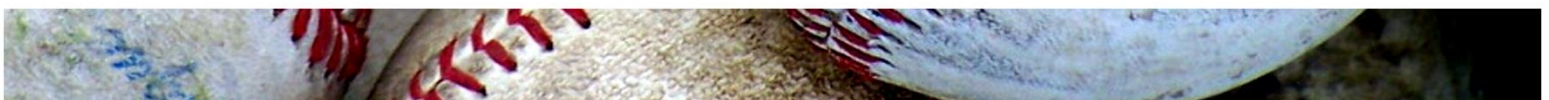
My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

### TRIALS

**Trial** – Trying, testing, or proving the **properties** of anything.

“My brethren, count it all joy when you **fall** into **various** trials”...

The word “**fall**” there actually means a **sudden, unexpected hardship**. That’s the way trials come – you’re going along and all of a sudden you’re like, “Whoa! I didn’t see that coming!”



# CHAPEL *Notes*

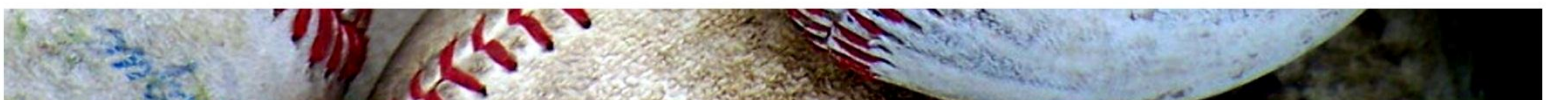
The word "**various**" is actually the same word used in a Greek translation of the Old Testament to describe Joseph's coat of many colors. It means that **trials come in all shapes and sizes** – financial, relational, physical, emotional, etc.

The word "**count**" means to press down your mind upon or **to think about**. The idea is that you take your specific trial in hand, and you begin to focus your thoughts on what is going on and why. Is there a purpose for this? After all, what really is joyful about hardship if you don't discover its specific **purpose**?

According to verse 3, the goal of all trials is to produce **PATIENCE, ENDURANCE** and **PERSEVERANCE**.

Nothing in the world takes the place of persistence... talent will not. Nothing in the world is more common than unsuccessful men with talent... genius will not... The world is full of educated derelicts.

**Persistence and determination are the most important!**



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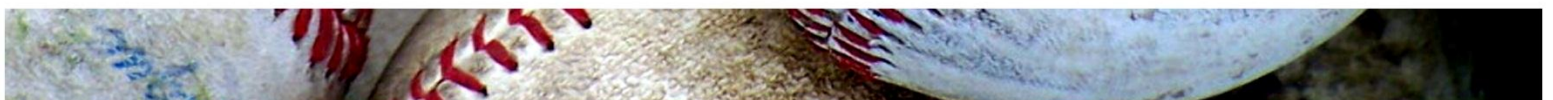
The word "**patience**" means the **ability to remain under**. God is trying to produce staying power in you – the ability to remain under the pressure. When hardship comes into your life, it puts pressure on you.

You push back – example/ Weight Lifting

What is the thing that you want to do when you start to really feel the pressure? You want to get out from under it. "Ooohh! What is that on me? I don't like that – get it off!" Sometimes we pray and ask God, "Please take that out of my life! I don't want it anymore!"

**God is trying to produce staying power in you!**

Staying power is the ability to remain under that thing – no matter what. The ability to remain in that marriage – as hard as it is. The ability to remain in that job – as hard at it is. The ability to stick with it in that difficult circumstance – no matter what.





## **Job 23:10**

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

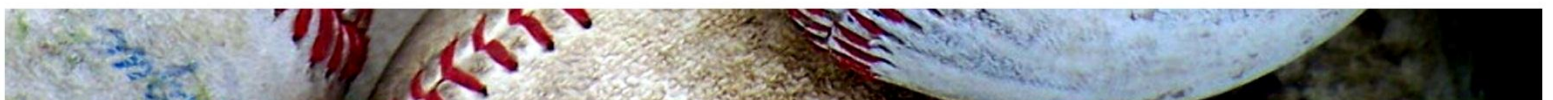
**If God can produce in you that staying power, He can give you everything else.**

Staying power is the funnel through which all Christian virtue flows. There is nothing good that God brings into your life by the way of transformation that He doesn't bring through the funnel of perseverance. If God can get that characteristic into your life, He can truly make you what He wants you to be.

**Reasons why people go through trials...**

**A. Wrong Decision** – Choices have consequences.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** - This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.** Now choose life, so that you and your children may live



# CHAPEL *Notes*

**B. Wrong Position** – Do you know your position in Christ? Not knowing who you are in God will keep you suffering.

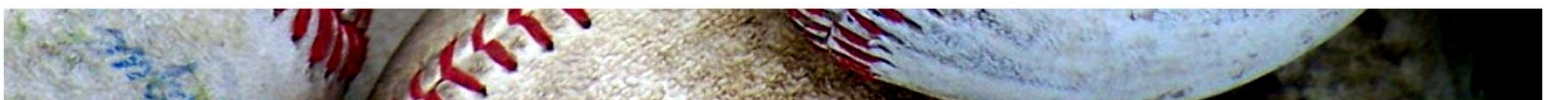
**Romans 8:37-38** - No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

**1 Corinthians 15:57** - But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C. Wrong Disposition** – Your attitude can transform your problem into a blessing.

What's the difference between obstacles and opportunity? **The attitude you have toward it!** Every opportunity has difficulty and every difficulty has opportunity.

**1 Peter 4:1** - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same **attitude**, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.





**Philippians 2:5** - Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

There is a Sovereign purpose of God; God has a long-range plan for your life!

**Jeremiah 29:11** – For **I know the plans** I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

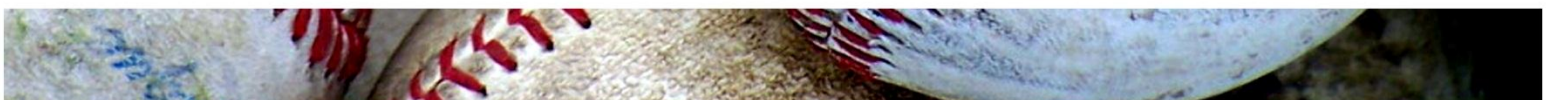
It's not what you are going THROUGH, it's what you're going TO!!

Stop saying "**I can't**" → Confess, "I can through Christ!"

Stop saying "**If**" → Say, "I will through God's grace!"

Stop saying "**Impossible**" → Confess, "Nothing is impossible for those who believe!"

Triumph is born through trials and tribulation. Nothing comes easy in life – if it does, it's not worth having.





Accomplishment without purpose is a waste of time.

**There is...**

No victory without a fight,  
No dawn without a night,  
No purchase without a cost,  
No crown without a cross.

