

James 1:1-4

Unresolved Questions For Further Discussion

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| 1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord | 5 ² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you |
| 2 Jesus Christ, | 6 encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the |
| 3 To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: | 7 testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And |
| 4 Greetings. | 8 let endurance have <i>its</i> perfect result, so that you |
| | 9 may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. |
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How do you see those verses relating to situations you have faced? What other questions or difficulties come to your mind? When is it most difficult for you to “Consider it all joy”?

- What about those circumstances that we simply cannot endure, when things are just too painful. How do we “Consider it all joy” then?
- Facing trials in our own life is one thing. How do we “Consider it all joy” when the trial consists of watching a loved one suffer?
- Trials are often about second things – broken relationships, failing health, financial disaster, family difficulties. But what about trials regarding the First Thing, our relationship with God Himself, when He seems distant or even completely absent? What about when we struggle with doubt and lack of trust in Him? How are those times occasions for joy?
- What about trials that we know will not end this side of glory, chronic health issues or a handicapped child? What does the joy of “perfect and complete” look like then?
- Why are “small trials” often more difficult than major disasters? How can we learn to recognize occasions for joy in day-to-day matters?
- How do we apply a command that is so contrary to our human nature? How do we get past just pretending to “Consider it all joy”?
- And how do we help each other to grow in these directions?

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| 10 ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him | 15 surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the |
| 11 ask of God, who gives to all generously and | 16 wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that |
| 12 without reproach, and it will be given to | 17 he will receive anything from the Lord, |
| 13 him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any | 18 ⁸ <i>being</i> a double-minded man, unstable in all |
| 14 doubting, for the one who doubts is like the | 19 his ways. |
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