

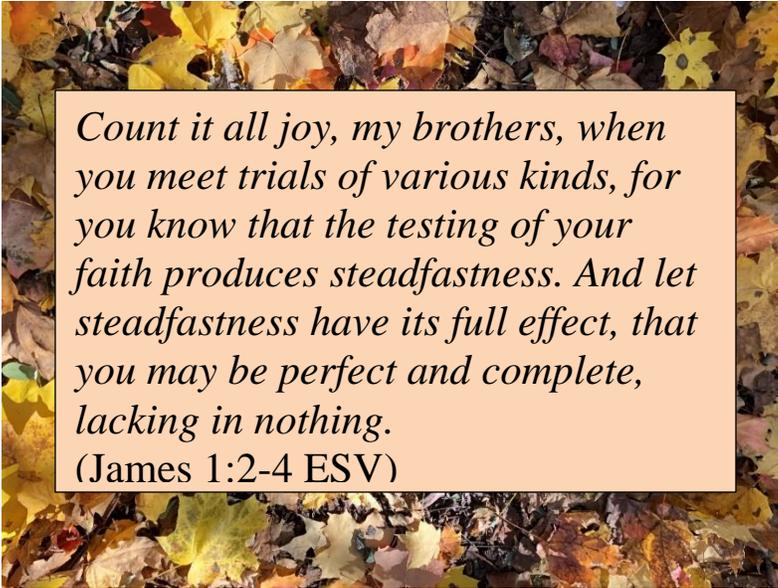
CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML

Volume 72

November 2022

Count It Joy



For over fifty years these verses from James (see above) have been a daily reminder to me that various trials will assail us; but God has a purpose in allowing them and has provided a response we can make. Let us consider the words James uses.

All Joy: Our confidence is based on the assurance of hope in Christ. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* (Romans 15:13)

Brothers: James is writing to Christians living faithfully and we find in Peter's letter the following:

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1Peter 1:6-9)

Various Trials: Challenging circumstances that befall a Christian (does not necessarily refer to temptation) Trials can be small (all red lights and then no parking place at the store) and large (major physical problems or the death of a spouse) James is assuring us that these

things are allowed by God to test our faith and produce steadfastness. So, let's consider steadfastness.

Steadfastness:

Steadfast, immovable abounding in the work of the Lord. (1Cor 15:58)

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love steadfastness (1 Tim 6:11)

For this very reason, make an effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness and steadfastness with godliness.

(2 Peter 1:5-6)

The word steadfastness means remaining under, and Peter gives us a clue when he says: "make an effort". What might 'remaining under' look like today?

- Instead of choosing my own way, I am willing to choose to follow Christ's way, simply to do what He asks me to do.
- Instead of loving myself most, I am willing to love Christ best and others more than myself, an act of the will.
- Instead of insisting on my rights, I am willing to forgo them in favor of others wishes.
- Instead of finding fault and always questioning "why" I am willing to accept every circumstance with thankfulness and gratitude.

Perfect and complete: not sinless but mature, reaching the goal of faith:

eternal life. God calls us to do His will and equips us with his Word and Spirit. He has promised eternal salvation to all who steadfastly confess Christ.

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (Heb. 10:39)

Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven. (Matt. 5:12)

Lacking in nothing: not referring to material things but to a strong faith.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom. 15:13)

The lips of the righteous feed many but fools die for lack of sense. (Prov. 10:21)

Now that we have grasped the significance of steadfastness how does that affect our attitude and actions? James 1:22 tells us:

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves.

Be a doer: The activities of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and their focus on providing funds for a variety of worthy, Christ honoring projects here and abroad reflects our concern. As members of LWML we can join President Carol Reis and use our time, talents, treasures, and enthusiasm to spread the good news of Christ and the gospel message of redemption through Jesus' sacrificial death to people in all kinds of life situations.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. (James 4:7)

Behold, we consider those blessed who remain steadfast. (James 5:11)



For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

(Isaiah 41:13)



Christian Life Committee
Mary Jane Montgomery



***Happy Thanksgiving!
Oh, give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good, for his steadfast
love endures forever! (Psalms
107:1)***