

James 1:2-4
JOY WHEN FAITH IS TRIED

- I. The occasion.
 - A. “Diverse temptations.”
 - 1. This refers to situations which test or prove us, an occasion to test our fidelity, virtue, constancy, integrity.
 - 2. “Diverse” is manifold, various – a host of different forms and variations.
 - 3. “Fall” is to be encompassed or surrounded.
 - B. “Count it all joy!” (would think that he would have said,
 - 1. When our lot is trials to our faith, then we have reason to rejoice.
 - 2. Before we respond in disgust at the apparent lack of understanding, remember that Jesus is saying this.
 - 3. Rejoice when you face temptations, not because of the temptations.
- II. The reason we can rejoice is because we know that the “trying of your faith worketh patience.”
 - A. Faith is tried.
 - 1. Faith is the power which unites us to Christ and the activity of holding for truth God’s Word and trusting it truth for ourselves.
 - 2. When our faith is tried, it is called to be exercised, namely, to be conscious of God’s relationship with us.
 - B. Second, a tried faith works patience.
 - 1. From our perspective the sufferings of this present time are temptations, but God sees them as trials.
 - 2. Patience is perseverance, staying power, faith bearing up and responding to severe trials.
- III. The “perfect work” of patience is faith being brought to completeness, lacking nothing.
 - A. Patience works (it does not just sit and wait).
 - 1. Patience’ perfect work is to complete us, i.e., to bring us to spiritual maturity, molded into Christ’s image.
 - 2. Afflictions make us mature: more sympathetic, more humble, more grateful, more hopeful.
 - B. Patience is faith in action during trials, enduring them by holding on to God’s promises.
 - 1. Patience feeds on the Word of God.
 - 2. In this way faith is brought to completion, i.e., to maturity.