

## Questions to Consider — Lesson 1 — “Counting Those Trials With Joy” — James 1:1-4

1. What facts do you already know about the Epistle of James?
2. Read James 1 every day. (a) Write down all the commands that you see. (b) Would you say you are currently obedient in each of these commands? Why or why not? (c) What do you think God would have you do, and what will you do?
3. Memorize James 1:2-3.
4. James says we are to count or consider it joy when we are facing trials (v 2). How can you use the following verses to encourage yourself or someone else to face their trials joyfully? Job 19:25-26; Psalms 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:2-4; and 1 Peter 1:6-7.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. (a) What did Christ say was the answer to Paul’s trial (thorn in the flesh)? (b) How did Paul respond to that particular trial? (c) What do you think Paul meant when he said he would rather *glory* in his infirmities? (d) How does this relate to what James says about being joyful in trials?
6. Think of a Biblical example of someone who went through a trial, and list the ways God used it to perfect her or him.
7. Honestly answer the following questions: (a) What is normally your first response to a trial? (b) Do you welcome trials as opportunities to develop in maturity towards Christ? How do you welcome them? (c) Why do you think we as believers resist trials?
8. Reflect over past trials you have had. How do you think they have helped you grow in the area of patience or endurance?
9. List the trials you are currently going through. Thank God for each one. Thank God for the joy that transcends each one. Thank Him in advance for the joy and confidence and patience you’ll gain when the test or tests are over. Ask God for the grace and wisdom to pass each test.
10. (a) What is the greatest trial you are facing today? (b) What is your prayer request to the Lord?